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Innovative world

Three years after the pandemic, the world is changed for the better—in terms of technology and innovations.

The power of technology and innovations are being harnessed all over the world by different industries and even small and medium businesses. For a good number of reasons. It streamlines operations. It saves them costs on production and personnel. It enables them to reach more customers globally, among many other reasons.

In the air cargo industry, innovations seem to be driving its future. Utilizing the power of artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT) and machine learning (MT), so much has been changed and achieved.

New technologies have enabled air cargo airlines to empower customers with the ability to track their shipments efficiently through real-time tracking features and Bluetooth-powered devices, quote dynamic prices online, and so on. Technology is also used to maximize cargo capacity, especially in stacking up e-commerce goods.

On the ground, new technologies are also being used to handle all types of cargo to safely transport them to their final destinations.

On the global aviation industry, airports now rely on smart technologies to speed up their operations. Protect passengers and keeping their facilities secure at all times.

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

Indeed, the world is now heavily dependent on technology to do business and connect with each other in an instant.

The US-based technology firm Gartner estimates the worldwide IT spending of companies to reach \$4.7 trillion this year, up by 4.4 percent than last year. Digital business transformations are rising as technologies enable automation and efficiency to drive growth at scale with fewer employees.

In this edition, we'll look deeper at how technology is changing the business landscape in the air cargo industry. We'll also bring you the latest news and features in this fast and dynamic sector.

Gemma Q. Casas

Editor-in-Chief

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The Lounge

THE CEO WHO COLLECTS ROCKS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD



Keith Davis
CEO, Sterling
Transportation

"Work hard... when I was younger, I worked 18 hours a day. I remember many times working 24 hours straight, and to me, that was the greatest feeling in the world that I had accomplished that. But I just think that hard work will get you where you want and always be fair to people and just be open. Be open to people."

K

Keith Davis, CEO of Sterling Transportation, shares his remarkable journey in the cargo industry, from humble beginnings to becoming a respected leader. With over 30 years of experience, Keith offers valuable insights and advice for those aspiring to join the sector.

"I started in 1982 when a friend of mine owned a local pickup and delivery company in Los Angeles, and I came to California to work for him," Keith recalled.

Over the years, he honed his skills and gained industry knowledge, paving the way for the establishment of his own domestic freight porter business in 1990. It was this entrepreneurial spirit that ultimately led to the creation of Sterling Transportation in 1993.

As the CEO of Sterling Transportation, Keith relishes the autonomy and freedom to make crucial business decisions.

"I can do whatever I want to do, and that's been successful up to this point right now. You better embrace change. I'm flexible with stuff like that. I think that's going to be a benefit to the company. I'm not entrenched in the way that I've done things for the last 30 years," he shared.

Despite his professional achievements, Keith places great importance on work-life balance. He shares, "I just love what I do, and that is my balance. I mean, I would be bored to death if I wasn't working. But this is what I like to do. That's my life balance."

Additionally, Keith cherishes moments spent with his family, including his wife and two daughters, who hold a special place in

his heart.

Beyond family time, Keith reveals an interesting hobby—collecting rocks. He elaborates, "I am a gem collector. Rocks. I'm a rock. I collect rocks. Whenever I travel to another city, I always go and find the rock store and I'll buy something that's from that area. I have an extensive collection of rocks."

Keith's role models are individuals who prioritize doing the right thing over purely pursuing financial gains. "A role model is a person who puts doing the right thing ahead of making money. Someone who cares about people," he stressed.

One of his favorite pieces of advice from the industry echoes this sentiment—"Never burn a bridge." This principle has served him well throughout his career, as he believes in maintaining positive relationships with everyone, regardless of circumstances.

On a lighter note, Keith reveals his ideal dinner guest—Deepak Chopra, whom he admires as a meditation instructor from the Chopra Institute. Furthermore, he shares his love for the movie "The Last of the Mohicans" and his all-time favorite book, "The Stand" by Stephen King.

For the next generation seeking to enter the cargo industry, Keith advocates hard work, networking, and openness to new opportunities.

"Work hard... when I was younger, I worked 18 hours a day. I remember many times working 24 hours straight, and to me, that was the greatest feeling in the world that I had accomplished that. But I just think that hard work will get you where you want and always be fair to people and just be open. Be open to people," he shared.

Keith Davis's inspiring journey exemplifies dedication, passion, and integrity - qualities that continue to drive his success in the dynamic world of cargo transportation. As Sterling Transportation celebrates its 30th anniversary, Keith's invaluable experiences and wisdom stand as a testament to the power of vision, hard work, and embracing change.



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Pioneering Excellence in Aviation and Logistics

Vivien Lau's journey in the aviation and logistics industry began with her early career at Jardine Matheson Group, where she explored various business domains. Her passion for the aviation sector blossomed during an assignment at an airport, and since then, she has dedicated 16 years to the industry, making significant strides in leadership roles.

Her career milestones include being the Managing Director of Hong Kong Air Cargo Industry Services (HACIS) and Executive Director of Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals (HACTL) from 2012 to 2021. During this time, Vivien embraced the challenges of a perceived male-dominated industry and utilized the support of mentors and a network of professionals to navigate and excel in her career.

In 2021, Vivien's remarkable journey led her to the

"In the midst of challenges, our team's agile approach and dedication have helped us seize opportunities for growth and adapt to the changing landscape. Empowering women in the industry is essential, as it brings diverse perspectives and fosters sustainable development. I believe that by speaking up and sharing our views openly, we can lead the aviation and logistics industries towards a more balanced and prosperous future."



Vivien Lau

Chief Executive
Jardine Aviation Services Group

position of Chief Executive of Jardine Aviation Services Group (JASG). Despite the pandemic crisis, Vivien led the company through turbulent times with unwavering determination. Her agile and dedicated team successfully explored new business opportunities, such as Preighters and special charter flights, to ensure survival during the pandemic.

Vivien's leadership extended beyond the crisis, as she focused on rewarding her team and improving their work environment during the recovery phase. Launching incentive

schemes and upgrading office infrastructure demonstrated her commitment to supporting and uplifting her staff.

Her influence in the aviation sector also expanded as she was elected the President of Hong Kong Airline Service Providers Association (HASPA) in January 2022. In this role, Vivien represented 23 ground operators at Hong Kong International Airport, advocating for policy support and recovery measures for the aviation industry.

As a representative of aviation, cargo, and logistics, Vivien actively participated in various working committees to share industry perspectives directly with the local government. Her collaborative approach emphasizes the importance of working together to achieve policy support and sustainable development in the aviation industry.

Vivien's passion for people and her dedication to fostering open communication led her to prioritize close interactions with staff and customers. She reaches out to frontline managers to understand ground-level challenges and seeks insights from customers to steer the company in a highly competitive environment.

Moreover, Vivien believes in empowering women within the industry to bring in new perspectives and create a balanced representation of views. Encouraging women to speak out and share unconventional ideas fosters sustainable development in aviation and logistics.

Outside her professional endeavors, Vivien finds balance through yoga, jogging, and exploring the world through travel. With a limitless mindset, she continues to inspire and lead by example, driving innovation and excellence in the aviation and logistics sector.

Vivien Lau's remarkable journey in the aviation and logistics industry serves as an inspiration to women aspiring to make their voices heard and thrive in their respective fields. Her leadership, determination, and commitment to empowering women exemplify the positive impact of fostering diversity and inclusion in the industry. As she continues to break barriers, Vivien Lau's contributions will undoubtedly shape a brighter future for aviation and logistics on a global scale.

AFRICA'S LARGEST AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S HIGH-TECH FITTED CARGO TERMINAL





Qatar Aviation Services Cargo receives IATA's Smart Facility Operational Capacity Certification

QAS Cargo is the first cargo ground handling agent in the Middle East and Africa region to attain the Smart Facility Operational Capacity Certification (SFOC). This achievement complements the recent IATA Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV Fresh) certification in June 2023.

Doha, Qatar: Qatar Airways Cargo's premier ground handling partner, Qatar Aviation Services Cargo, has achieved a milestone certification with the International Air Transport Authority (IATA) certifying its cargo facility at the Doha hub as a Smart Facility.

QAS Cargo is the first cargo ground handling agent in the Middle East and Africa region to attain the Smart Facility Operational Capacity Certification (SFOC). This achievement complements the recent IATA Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV Fresh) certification in June 2023.

Its audit in April 2023 included assessing the cargo handling infrastructure, equipment and implementation of procedures at the Cargo Terminal Complex. The IATA audit team validated the operational procedures of QAS Cargo in compliance with a number of IATA Regulations - IATA Cargo Handling Manual, Dangerous Goods Regulations, Unit Load Device Regulations, Temperature Control Regulations, Live Animals



Regulations and Perishable Cargo Regulations. Guillaume Halleux, Chief Officer Cargo at Qatar Airways Cargo, commented, "Our growth to becoming the world's leading air cargo carrier today has been no easy achievement. Our teams have one goal in mind – customer experience. It is this goal combined with our Next Generation and VISION 2027 strategy through which we have implemented quality procedures in every area of our business. The certification of our hub in Doha reflects the high standards in place to ensure all types of cargo are handled seamlessly and securely, in compliance to all the IATA regulations."

Deepak Balakrishnan, Vice President QAS Cargo, said their team is proud of their accomplishment. "We are proud of our state-of-the-art handling facility, the services implemented, our robust and defined procedures as well as our teams who dedicatedly ensure that cargo is handled extremely well, no matter the type of cargo. IATA's Smart Facility Operational Capacity Certification is testament to the hard work and dedication by both Qatar Airways Cargo and QAS Cargo teams," he said.

Brendan Sullivan, IATA's Global Head of Cargo, said, noted: "Customers of organisations attaining Smart Facility Operational Capacity Certification (SFOC) recognise it as a key differentiator, highlighting the additional efforts taken to improve cargo operations, safety, service quality and enhance the customer experience. We congratulate Qatar Aviation Services (QAS) on achieving SFOC certification. Cargo operations is the pivot of the air cargo supply chain, and with SFOC, QAS drive a safe, efficient and customer-focused operations."

Both Qatar Airways Cargo and QAS Cargo are already certified for IATA CEIV Pharma, IATA CEIV Fresh, IATA CEIV Live Animals and IATA CEIV Lithium Battery certifications.

One Air completes inaugural flight and begins preparations to welcome second freighter



London: Britain's new all-cargo airline, One Air, announced it has completed its inaugural Boeing 747-400 freighter flight, operating a full charter for client Shandong Glory from China to the United Kingdom.

The 100-ton payload arrived at London Heathrow

from Jinan-Shandong last night, marking the commercial launch of the new airline.

"This is a landmark day for One Air and all our team and partners in the UK, who have worked so hard to prepare for our successful launch since the awarding of our AOC by the UK Civil Aviation Authority. As well as ad hoc charter flights, we are now also commencing a regular flying programme from Asia Pacific to Europe with two 747F flights per week. Work is also under way to add a second 747F to our fleet, which we hope will enter service in early Q4. We are delighted to be open for business," said Chris Hope, One Air's Chief Operating Officer.

One Air anticipates regular demand for flights from the UK to Europe, the Middle East, and Asia regions, with services to China and the US to follow.

Paul Bennett, One Air's CEO, commented: "It is a proud day for us to operate our first customer flight and marks the start of our strategic development plan to build One Air's reputation with clients in prime air cargo markets around the world."

One Air is the only UK operator of the Boeing 747 with its dry leased B747-400SF. In preparation for its launch of operations, it established a team of over 100 aviation and air cargo specialists, based at its headquarters near London Heathrow.



FORT WORTH, Texas: American Airlines Cargo announced it has joined United for Wildlife, a group dedicated to ending the illegal trafficking of wildlife, as first reported in the airline's 2022 Sustainability Report.

American signed the Buckingham Palace Declaration in December 2022, making it the first U.S. airline and U.S. cargo carrier to join the organization.

United for Wildlife was founded by Prince William and The Royal Foundation in 2014 to protect endangered species from illegal trade. As a member of the Transport Taskforce and the North American Chapter, American plays a vital role in stopping the illegal trafficking of wildlife by

American Airlines Cargo joins United For Wildlife as the first US cargo carrier

preventing these products from being transported across borders.

Together with other players along the supply chain and regional partners from various sectors, American Airlines Cargo is part of a critical network of stakeholders trained to recognize patterns of illegal wildlife trade where it is most prevalent.

"We are proud to be the first U.S. cargo carrier to join United for Wildlife. We take our membership in the Transport Taskforce very seriously and are committed to doing our part to put an end to wildlife smuggling within the supply chain," said Cargo President Greg Schwendinger. "It's a privilege to link up with other industries and logistics players to fight for this mission together."

Ian Cruickshank, United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce Manager, said: "Airlines can play a vital role in disrupting the supply chains of international criminal syndicates trafficking in vulnerable and endangered species. No country is immune from these crimes - between 2009 and 2021, there were an average of seven wildlife seizures a day at US airports. We're thrilled to welcome American Airlines on board as our first U.S. airline partner and look forward to working together into the future to drive down this exploitation."

The criminal wildlife trafficking trade is estimated to be worth up to \$20 billion annually as poachers and traffickers illegally trade wildlife and wildlife products, such as monkeys, rhino horn, ivory, pangolin scales or tiger parts, among many others. This illegal trade is a major threat to global biodiversity and human health and is linked to many other criminal acts.

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FedEx boosts convenience with new paperless mobile shipping solution in the UAE, Bahrain, and Kuwait with FedEx Ship Manager® Lite

Dubai, UAE: FedEx Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) and the world's largest express transportation company, has launched FedEx Ship Manager® Lite (FSML), a new mobile shipping solution, for shippers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, and Kuwait to prepare their packages with greater ease and flexibility.

FSML is a web-based mobile shipping solution providing shippers, even those without a FedEx account who are dropping off packages at the FedEx World Service Centers (WSC), the convenience of preparing shipments without filling out a paper airway bill and printing shipping labels and commercial invoices.

With FSML, shippers can easily fill out their shipment information and create a shipment reference QR code using their smart devices and present it to the FedEx agent when dropping off their package.

Customers are demanding faster and simpler ways to prepare their shipments. "FSML is another way we are making shipping simpler with digital solutions to make our customers' lives easier. This solution brings shipping into the digital age, where convenience is a priority. With FMSL, customers in the UAE, Bahrain, and Kuwait can

now ship packages without printing any documents, right from their mobile devices," said Taarek Hinedi, vice president of FedEx Express Middle East and Africa operations.

In addition, the enhanced solution allows shippers in Kuwait to fill out the shipping information on their mobile devices and order a pick-up at their home address or place of work and simply present the QR code to the FedEx courier.

FedEx, the world's largest express transportation company delivering to more than 220 countries and territories, says it is continuously enhancing its services by introducing innovative shipping solutions to meet the growing needs of customers.

In the UAE, FedEx recently integrated WhatsApp, one of the country's most popular instant messaging apps, into its e-commerce delivery solution FedEx Delivery Manager International. Using the service, recipients expecting their packages can receive delivery notifications, chat with FedEx directly, and manage their delivery time and location with the click of a button.

Lufthansa Cargo and Kuehne+Nagel pioneer paperless freight transportation with an all-digital shipment flow

Frankfurt, Germany: Moving jointly forward in the field of digitalization and sustainability in air freight, Lufthansa Cargo and Kuehne+Nagel have introduced "paperless corridors" between Europe and Asia.

The first "paperless lane" between Germany and Hong Kong has successfully been established and piloted with 100 percent paperless general cargo shipments.

This means not only the electronic air waybill, but additionally also targets accompanying documents and paper pouches. In the next phase more lanes will be targeted. By increasing the number of paperless lanes, a whole paperless corridor between Europe and Asia will be built for general cargo where the transport of paper could be eliminated.

In an era driven by digital transformation and environmental consciousness, the need to reduce paper usage and streamline operations has become increasingly paramount. The companies said the benefits of paperless lanes extend beyond operational efficiency as their collaboration will also make substantial contributions to sustainability efforts within the air freight industry.

Dr. Jan-Wilhelm Breithaupt, Vice President Global Fulfillment Management, Lufthansa Cargo, commented: "We see great opportunities in this initiative as it supports all participants in pushing their handling efficiencies as well as increasing data availability and transparency throughout their network. The transition to a paperless environment will significantly reduce processing times plus complexity and offers just in time shipment status information. However, it will only be a first step towards a fully digitalized air freight future; especially accompanying documentation of special cargo will come into our focus soon enough."

Lufthansa Cargo's long-standing customer Kuehne+Nagel is very pleased by the achievement of 100 percent paperless freight and has set a clear goal to further expand the paperless footprint according to Kolja Mahler-Wingen, Vice President Air Logistics Operations Germany, Kuehne+Nagel.

"In addition to the positive effect of paperless handling, which primarily saves time



and gains efficiency, a purely digitally supported process also offers further potential for automation in order to reach the best possible transparency and data quality for our customers around the globe. We as Kuehne+Nagel are highly committed to further expanding our digital ambitions on the way to a fully digitized air freight process," said Mahler-Wingen.

Both Lufthansa Cargo and Kuehne+Nagel encourage industry players to join them in their efforts to eliminate unnecessary paper documents. Participating in the "paperless corridor" is easy for interested logistic companies: All that is required is the participation in the electronic Air Way Bill (eAWB) Single Process and the selection of the eFreight Special Handling Code (EAW) for all general cargo when preparing the shipment and paperless delivery to the airline.



rate, achieving 90.6 percent, ahead of its 85 percent target and an increase on its 2022 DAP rate of 86.6 percent.

Thomas Schürmann, Head of Operations at Etihad Cargo, said: "Exceeding OTP and DAP targets demonstrates Etihad Cargo's strong commitment to reliability, building trust and being the air cargo partner of choice."

"The carrier's freighter operations have played a critical role in Etihad Cargo's ability to meet its ambitious growth targets, which has seen the carrier successfully launch new freighter routes to key destinations, including Guangzhou, and offer additional capacity across Etihad Cargo's global network. Etihad Cargo's state-of-the-art Cargo Control Centre monitors the status of all shipments in real time and tracks shipments, flights and road feeder services to enhance the carrier's DAP promise to partners and customers," he added.

In addition to Etihad Cargo's expanding freighter network, it offers belly capacity to over 69 destinations across Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the Americas with 674 weekly rotations.

The company also operates charter flights and has expanded its road feeder service network to enhance connectivity to non-network destinations.

Etihad Cargo exceeds operational performance targets in H1 2023

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has continued to surpass operational performance targets, achieving improvements across key performance measures in the first half of 2023.

Building on the strong operational performance of the carrier's freighter operations in 2022, Etihad Cargo achieved 82.7 percent on-time performance (OTP) for freighter departures and 82 percent OTP for freighter arrivals. The recorded OTP for both freighter departures and arrivals in H1 2023 exceeds the carrier's 80 percent OTP target.

Etihad Cargo said surpassing this target demonstrates the airline's commitment to providing reliable, high-quality cargo solutions with minimal disruption to the carrier's partners and customers.

Etihad Cargo has also further improved the carrier's delivered-as-promised (DAP)

dnata's blooming flower handling expertise takes flight in Amsterdam

The company provides ground and cargo handling services to 37 airlines at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol with a team of 1,000 dedicated aviation professionals who handle 10,000 flights and move 540,000 tons of cargo annually.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Leading global air and travel services provider dnata handles up to 42,000 tons of delicate flowers each year from its advanced Amsterdam cargo facilities.

Orchids, chrysanthemums, and the ever-popular roses are the most popular types of 27,000 tons of flowers imported, arriving daily into the European continent from key source markets in East Africa and South America. One of the busiest times of the year is the two- to three-week window before Valentine's Day in February, with multiple freight aircraft arriving each day to supply Europe's love birds.

dnata's Amsterdam facilities also manage the export of 15,000 tons of flowers annually, primarily the home-grown gerbera, gypsophila and peonies.

"Understanding our customers' requirements is crucial to ensuring perishable items such as flowers preserve their freshness and longevity, maintaining the value for our customers. Our customer-oriented team and best-in-class facilities ensure that perishable cargo is processed quickly and efficiently throughout the transportation process," said Jan van Anrooy, Managing Director, dnata Netherlands.

To keep temperature control of flowers, speed of handling while limiting manhandling of the product is key, from unloading off the aircraft, into the dnata facility and on to the trucks and freight forwarders. dnata's highly-trained teams can typically empty a full freighter aircraft of flowers, and load them on to forwarding trucks in around 90 minutes. If required, dnata's cool chain facilities at its Amsterdam hub provide cold storage to maintain freshness, before they are transported to market, auctioned and distributed throughout Europe.

dnata currently provides ground and cargo handling services to 37 airlines at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS) with a team of 1,000 dedicated aviation



professionals, who handle 10,000 flights and move 540,000 tonnes of cargo annually.

In 2024, dnata will significantly enhance its operations in The Netherlands by opening a fully automated cargo centre, dnata Cargo City Amsterdam at AMS. One of the largest and most advanced facilities of its kind, including certifications for sustainability and eco-friendly design, the 61,000 m² facility will use cutting-edge technologies and be capable of processing over 850,000 tonnes of cargo annually. This will include perishables, pharmaceuticals, dangerous goods, mail, live animals, aircraft engines and vehicles.

Established in 1959, dnata offers quality and safe ground handling, cargo, travel, catering and retail services in 38 countries across six continents. In the financial year 2022-23, dnata's customer-oriented teams handled over 710,000 aircraft turns, moved over 2.7 million tonnes of cargo, uplifted 111.4 million meals, and recorded a total transaction value (TTV) of travel services of US\$ 1.9 billion.

CASPIAN AIR CARGO SUMMIT 2023

JW MARRIOTT ABSHERON BAKU
23 - 25 OCTOBER



Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023 is the largest and most comprehensive aviation event in the region, bringing the international air cargo market leaders to Baku. The ideal one-stop platform to find out about the latest developments. The event is now back after a four year hiatus. Focus will be on the Europe-Asia trade lane, innovation in logistics, e-commerce, cargo aircraft, sustainability in the supply chain, business opportunities in Azerbaijan and global market outlook.

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

For more information and registration online: www.caspianaircargosummit.com

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- The Sustainable Supply Chain – The Next Leap

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Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bolat.

Turkish Cargo now ranks 3rd among top global air cargo airlines

market share to 5.4% from 4.7% by increasing it 0.8 points as compared to April.

Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bolat, commented: "We, as Turkish Cargo, are continuing to reinforce our leading position in the industry in line with our target to grow and improve continuously. We recognize these achievements as a commitment to our future targets and work harder to add further value to the air cargo industry."

Touted as one of the fastest growing air cargo brands in the world, Turkish Cargo continues to raise the bar for excellent performance day by day and combines its wide range of services and operational capabilities with the unique geographical advantages of its hub in Türkiye.

With a fleet of 24 freighters and access to 422 aircraft via Turkish Airlines, Turkish Cargo provides air cargo services to more than 340 destinations, 104 of which are dedicated for cargo shipments across 132 nations around the world.

Istanbul, Türkiye: Turkish Cargo has climbed up to the third spot in the global air cargo airlines ranking based on the latest data published by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The cargo and logistics arm of Turkish Airlines, the national airline of Türkiye, showed a remarkable performance in May, overtaking top brands from America, Europe and the Far East during the period.

According to the FTK (Freight Ton Kilometers), derived by multiplying the cargo tonnage, carried by air, with the kilometers covered, Turkish Cargo increased its cargo tonnage by 17% compared to the previous month while raising its

NAP creates 6 sub-industry networks for members to interact, cooperate and maximize benefits

Athens, Greece: Neutral Air Partner, the premier global platform of leading air cargo architects and aviation logistics specialists, launched its new air cargo logistics ecosystem with six sub-industry networks during its annual OPENAP conference last May in Greece.

This year, NAP has reformed and strengthened its air cargo logistics platform, enabling members to network more efficiently with six sub-industry networks. The new structure provides air cargo logistics firms with the opportunity to apply for membership in a sub-industry network tailored to their specialization and the company's core industry sector activities.

Membership in Neutral Air Partner is an exclusive privilege extended to a selected number of elite local and regional airfreight professionals. Selection criteria ensure only the most suitable partners with niche-specific expertise are part of the network.

"One of the main objectives of NAP has always been to revive specialization and inject a greater degree of advanced air cargo expertise into the logistics industry, and to drive airfreight and express buying power across the air cargo supply chain. Sub-industry expertise and vertical focus are critical for collaboration and professional advancement. During our conference, we presented our new membership structure with the slogan 'One air cargo logistics ecosystem | Six sub-industry networks' aiming to enable our members to

more efficiently network, interact, cooperate, and excel," said NAP CEO Christos Spyrou.

The new six sub-industry networks cater to air cargo logistics professionals from multiple industry sectors, including neutral consolidators and master co-loaders, time-critical logistics firms, GSSAs and brokers, perishable logistics experts, express and eCommerce providers, charter brokers and carriers, as well as general airfreight forwarders.



**Christos Spyrou
CEO, NAP**

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Seafrigo acquires UK-based specialist forwarder Perishable Movements Limited

Le Havre, France: Seafrigo Group, the world's leading specialist in temperature-controlled food logistics, has acquired the UK-headquartered forwarder Perishables Movements Limited (PML).

In the coming months, all PML locations will operate using a new co-branding with a view to eventually becoming Seafrigo, the Group said. PML operates from three locations in the UK, Heathrow, Lincolnshire and Kent, and across air, ocean and road forwarding while also offering warehousing and value-added services to customers.

"With its excellent market reputation and our shared expertise in the management and distribution of temperature-

controlled goods, this deal is the perfect fit for us. Through an expanded airfreight capability which PML will bring to our operation, all our customers will be able to benefit from an improved service offering, expanded geographic coverage, scale of operations, improved buying power and enhanced service solutions," said Seafrigo Regional CEO Jason Knox.

PML CEO Mike Parr, commented, "For us, this new era is very much business as usual for all our customers. We are delighted to become part of the Seafrigo Group which has more than 40 years' specialist leadership in the temperature-controlled food logistics market. The deal provides us all with the opportunity to grow and

enhance our business and to truly control the global logistics chain from origin to destination for our customers."

The UK PML operation will plug-in seamlessly to the global Seafrigo network enabling both companies, experts in their fields, to leverage their knowledge to deliver an even better service for customers said

Seafrigo Group CEO Eric Barbé who welcomed the PML staff. "Together we have the synergies and determination to build the world's leading end-to-end temperature-controlled organization and I am delighted to have their team onboard," he said.

A.P. Moller - Maersk strengthens logistics services in UAE with new cold storage facility at Dubai Industrial City

Dubai, United Arab Emirates: A.P. Moller - Maersk (Maersk), the global integrated logistics company, recently opened its third warehousing & distribution facility in Dubai, UAE, which is also its first cold storage facility in the country.

Situated at Dubai Industrial City, a member of TECOM Group PJSC, Maersk's cold storage facility seamlessly connects to Jebel Ali Port, and the Al Maktoum International Airport, and have direct road access across the UAE and the Etihad Rail freight terminal.

"The demand for perishables that require cold storage is rising in the UAE owing to the growing population and robust tourism resulting in increased demand for specialty foods without compromising the integrity of the product. At Maersk, our purpose is to improve life for all by integrating the world, and we saw an opportunity to establish a facility that would help us achieve our purpose in the UAE," said Christopher Cook, Managing Director, Maersk UAE, Oman and Qatar.

Saud Abu Alshawareb, Executive Vice President – Industrial Leasing, TECOM Group PJSC, commented "Maersk's launch reiterates the industrial and logistics credentials of Dubai, a global powerhouse for logistics activity due to its business-friendly legislation and its geographic location. With purpose-



Christopher Cook, Managing Director, Maersk UAE, Oman and Qatar, left, and Saud Abu Alshawareb, Executive Vice President – Industrial Leasing, TECOM Group PJSC. Spread over 13,000 sqm of land at Dubai Industrial City, a member of TECOM Group PJSC, Maersk's new cold storage facility will serve the UAE's FMCG sector with uninterrupted cold chain logistics solutions.

built infrastructure, sector-specific zones, expansive transport links, and strategic government partnerships, Dubai Industrial City offers logistics solutions that support and complement the industrial sector."

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Saudia Cargo expands European services and reach through agreement with Jan de Rijk Co.

The partnership will enable Saudia Cargo to widen its network in Europe and enhance its offerings to its customers.

Riyadh, KSA: Saudia Cargo, a leading provider of air cargo services, has signed a strategic agreement with Jan de Rijk Co., a prominent European transportation and logistics company, to enhance its services and expand its reach in Europe.

The signing ceremony took place on the 19 July 2023, at Saudia Cargo's headquarters in Jeddah, solidifying the collaboration between the two industry leaders.

Under this agreement, Saudia Cargo will leverage Jan de Rijk's extensive trucking network, which comprises a fleet of specialist vehicles, to bolster its operations and strengthen its presence in Europe. Jan de Rijk Co., founded in 1971, is a top provider of European transportation, distribution services, and supply chain management solutions. The company's expertise and in-depth knowledge of key industries make it an ideal partner for furthering Saudia Cargo's ambitious expansion plans.

Jan de Rijk Logistics operates in five business units: international transport, Benelux distribution and last-mile deliveries, contract logistics, road freight forwarding, and intermodal transport.

Over the years, the company has focused on continuous development and optimization to achieve a leading position in its desired vital market segments. With a solid commitment to customer-centric solutions, Jan de Rijk Co. has gained a reputation for delivering efficient and reliable services tailored to the unique needs of its clients.

Saudia Cargo's collaboration with Jan de Rijk Co. marks a significant milestone in its growth strategy, enabling it to tap into new opportunities and further build up its European operations. Saudia Cargo aims to enhance its service offerings and deliver seamless end-to-end logistics solutions to its customers by utilizing Jan de Rijk's extensive network and



Saudia Cargo CEO Teddy Zebitz, left, and Fred Westdijk, CEO of Jan de Rijk Co., during the signing ceremony held at the airline's headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Image Credit: Saudia Cargo

specialist vehicles.

"We are delighted to partner with Jan de Rijk Co. to extend our footprint in Europe and provide enhanced logistics services to our valuable customers," said Teddy Zebitz, CEO of Saudia Cargo. "Jan de Rijk's extensive experience and proven track record in the European transportation industry align perfectly with our business growth objectives. Besides, we both share same mission towards sustainability, which is an important issue for the air cargo industry, and air cargo carriers that adopt sustainable practices can help to protect the environment, improve safety, and enhance their brand reputation. Together, we will enhance our offering for innovative and efficient solutions that cater to the evolving needs of the regional and global market."

Fred Westdijk, CEO of Jan de Rijk Co., expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "This agreement with Saudia Cargo presents a remarkable opportunity for both organizations. By combining our strengths, we will unlock new avenues for growth and better serve our customers. We look forward to a fruitful partnership and its mutual benefits."

The agreement between Saudia Cargo and Jan de Rijk Co. demonstrates both companies' commitment to providing exceptional logistics services and advancing the logistics industry. By merging their collective expertise, resources, and networks, Saudia Cargo and Jan de Rijk Co. are poised to achieve several vital milestones due to the collaboration.



Chapman Freeborn

A legacy of aviation excellence for 50 years

By Mohammed Irshad

In the dynamic world of aviation, only few companies can boast a history over the past 50 years as illustrious as Chapman Freeborn. Today, the world's leading aircraft charter and aviation support company operates more than 29,000 flights a year across six continents.

As the company celebrates its 50th anniversary, a testament to its enduring commitment to excellence and innovation, **Air Cargo Update** had the exhilarating opportunity to engage in a conversation with Russi Batliwala, Chairman of the Chapman Freeborn Group of Companies, to reflect on their milestones, challenges, and vision for the future.

From its humble beginnings in 1973 when Chris Chapman and Mike Freeborn formed the company and worked as marketers of Alaska International Air's fleet of Lockheed C-130 Hercules freighter aircraft, Chapman Freeborn has grown into a towering presence in the global aviation industry, serving both passenger and cargo flights.

Since 2019, Chapman Freeborn proudly stands as part of the prestigious Avia Solutions Group, a global aviation powerhouse with over 100 offices worldwide. With a remarkable variety of aircraft chartered over the past 50 years, including the legendary Antonov AN-225, the largest air cargo aircraft ever built, Chapman Freeborn has not only redefined the boundaries of aviation logistics but also etched its name in the annals of history.

The company's journey has been one of constant innovation and adaptation. Over the years, it has forged remarkable collaborations and undertaken extraordinary projects, from the VIP transport of the Olympic flame to supporting Greece's wildfire fight by swiftly transporting helicopters. Chapman Freeborn's commitment to excellence has earned it a global presence across six continents, solidifying its position as a trusted partner in the aviation industry.

An Extraordinary Milestone

Fifty years in any industry is a significant achievement, and Batliwala acknowledges the magnitude of this milestone. Recounting his experience at a recent industry event, he shares, "When I arrived, people began congratulating me on the accomplishment, but it was only then that it truly dawned on me—yes, this is quite an achievement. I felt incredibly

From Left to Right: Russi Batliwala, Chairman of the Board, Chapman Freeborn; Neil Dursley, Group Chief Operating Officer, Chapman Freeborn; and Eric Erbacher, Chief Executive Officer, Chapman Freeborn. Source: Chapman Freeborn ▶

“Air Cargo Europe–Munich, people began congratulating me on the accomplishment, but it was only then that it truly dawned on me—yes, this is quite an achievement. I felt incredibly overwhelmed, and even now, it continues to be overwhelming and emotionally inspiring. The 50-year anniversary marks a testament to Chapman Freeborn's enduring commitment to excellence and innovation.”

overwhelmed, and even now, it continues to be overwhelming and emotionally inspiring.”

Chapman Freeborn's journey commenced with a focus on operating Hercules aircraft within Africa, primarily serving humanitarian organizations. Over time, the company's charter broking business emerged, transforming the industry landscape.

Batliwala explains, “In the early days, charter broking was more like a used car salesman business. However, the industry has changed significantly today, with regulations, compliance, and legal aspects playing a crucial role.” This adaptability and ability to navigate industry changes propelled Chapman Freeborn's growth, and the company now operates on a global scale, across six continents.

Global Presence

Diversification and strategic partnerships have played a pivotal role



in Chapman Freeborn's rise as a global leader in aviation logistics. Its extensive network, spanning six continents, has solidified its position and earned the trust of clients worldwide. The company is now filled with hundreds of highly-skilled air charter experts, from charter brokers to flight support officers, each bringing unwavering commitment which allows Chapman Freeborn to consistently provide tailored solutions to meet the diverse needs of industries and individuals.

Recognizing the need to diversify and adapt to a changing market, Chapman Freeborn embarked on strategic moves to expand its portfolio and its team. Batliwala emphasizes, “We started bringing in new products, investing in our onboard courier business, and acquiring Intradco Global, the number one animal transportation specialist in the world, with Charlie McMullen at the helm. We also purchased Arcus and increased our share in Magma Aviation, working closely with their CEO, Conor Brannigan.” These bold initiatives allowed Chapman Freeborn to have its own assets and broaden its revenue streams, differentiating the company from its competitors.

Chapman Freeborn, a distinguished member of the Avia Solutions Group, stands as a testament to the power of strategic partnerships in the aviation industry. As Batliwala highlights, “The partnership with the Avia Solutions Group has played a vital role in our growth and success.” This collaboration has positioned Chapman Freeborn to thrive in the ever-evolving aviation landscape.

As part of the world's largest ACMI provider, Avia Solutions Group brings an impressive fleet of 173 aircraft to the table. With a global presence in 68 countries and a workforce of 11,500 highly skilled aviation professionals, the group provides Chapman Freeborn with the resources and expertise necessary to thrive in today's competitive market.

Indeed, ACMI leasing is a key part of Chapman Freeborn's onward trajectory, marked by the advent of its new global ACMI department, announced in April of this year. Headed by Scott Collier, President – ACMI Leasing, the team is situated across three continents and provides wet, dry, damp and hybrid lease solutions.



"Even after over 36 years with Chapman Freeborn, I continue to feel excited about what we do every day, and I am continually inspired by the extraordinary people I work with. As long as I continue to add value, I will remain in my role."

With the backing of Avia Solutions Group, Chapman Freeborn is poised for remarkable collaborations and ventures on the horizon. Batliwala stresses, "This expansion is bringing new capacity for us to market as a broker, and it's an incredibly exciting development for us." Through the partnership with Avia Solutions Group, Chapman Freeborn is actively managing and expanding its asset portfolio, extending its focus beyond cargo to encompass passenger services. This strategic positioning reflects the company's commitment to meeting the evolving demands of the industry. As the Chairman affirms, "We are poised for exciting collaborations and growth opportunities in the passenger services sector. Our team of professionals in this arena is exceptional, and we have recently added several new people into the mix, such as Andy Hutchinson who is our new Head of Sales & Commercial in our UK passenger team, and Matt Feldon, Senior Team Leader Commercial Jets. We are very optimistic and confident about what the future holds for Chapman Freeborn in the passenger sector."

Embracing Challenges and Forging Memorable Collaborations

Reflecting on the last 20-30 years, Batliwala shares remarkable stories of collaboration and resilience.



Russi Batliwala
Chairman
Chapman Freeborn
Group of Companies

From delivering humanitarian goods to Somalia to navigating the ever-changing charter business landscape, Chapman Freeborn has embraced challenges and carved a unique path. "I have a deep passion for aviation, and the charter business, in particular, excites me because it's different every day," he shared. "This passion is shared by our ever-growing team and remains inherent, even as the business expands and adapts to market changes."

In 2010, Chapman Freeborn faced a critical turning point. Rising costs and the realization that being a "nice guy" was no longer sufficient prompted the company to redefine its approach. Recognizing the need for value addition, Batliwala explained, "We recognized that being a nice guy alone was not sufficient; we needed to add value and differentiate ourselves." This led to diversification efforts and the provision of tailored solutions, ensuring the sustainability of the business.

Amidst challenges, Chapman Freeborn has also forged unforgettable collaborations. From witnessing the offloading of humanitarian goods by local villagers in Somalia to engaging in dynamic industry partnerships, the company's journey is marked by remarkable moments. Half a century of firsthand experiences exemplify the unpredictable nature of the air cargo charter business and fuel his unwavering passion for aviation.

Embracing challenges and cultivating memorable collaborations have defined Chapman Freeborn's trajectory. With a renewed approach focused on value addition and differentiation, the company continues to thrive.

As it navigates the dynamic aviation landscape for more than half a century, Chapman Freeborn remains committed to shaping the future, leaving an indelible mark on the industry and inspiring aviation enthusiasts worldwide.

Commitment to Sustainability and Carbon Neutrality

In the pursuit of sustainability, Batliwala highlights the current challenges faced by the industry. "Sustainable aviation fuel is a luxury primarily accessible to legacy carriers like Lufthansa, while the charter market struggles to afford this option," he acknowledges. However, despite these limitations, Chapman Freeborn is determined to make a difference and promote carbon neutrality within their operations.

Batliwala proudly announces, "As far as Chapman Freeborn is concerned, we have a large onboard courier business headed by Nikolai Bergmann, OBC – Managing Director, with offices in Los Angeles, Hong Kong, and Cologne. All our onboard couriers globally will be CO2 neutral. Which is, I believe, the first in the industry." This groundbreaking initiative, fronted by Business Development Manager, Felix Deutscher, sets Chapman Freeborn apart as trailblazers in the field, with their onboard courier business leading the way in achieving carbon neutrality. "Already, our

Cologne onboard courier office is run entirely on green energy”, Batliwala adds.

To provide tangible proof of their commitment, Batliwala explains, “We will be issuing certificates through our partner who is going to be doing the CO2 compensation. So, if you book an onboard courier, you can confidently inform your customer that this is proof of CO2 neutrality. Which is a big step.” By issuing these certificates, Chapman Freeborn ensures transparency and empowers customers to showcase their environmentally conscious choices.

The commitment to sustainability extends beyond the onboard courier business. In the private aviation sector, Chapman Freeborn offers customers the option to neutralize their CO2 footprint by paying an additional amount. This comprehensive approach reflects their dedication to reducing the environmental impact of their operations and sets the stage for further sustainability initiatives.

Chapman Freeborn is prioritizing transparency, providing tangible proof, and offering eco-conscious solutions, and will inspire change and set a new standard for the aviation community. As they continue their sustainability journey, Chapman Freeborn remains dedicated to shaping a greener and more responsible future for aviation.

A Legacy of Corporate Social Responsibility

Chapman Freeborn's journey is not only defined by its business accomplishments but also by its commitment to corporate social responsibility. Over the years, the company has actively engaged in various initiatives to support humanitarian causes and give back to society.

Whether it be providing ad hoc sponsorship for special cases or contributing to humanitarian efforts in times of crisis, Chapman Freeborn recognizes the importance of making a positive impact on the communities it serves.

Batliwala acknowledges the need for a more structured approach. He comments, “It might be something we need to consider changing in the future, perhaps by supporting a particular organization consistently. The company recognizes the importance of unified efforts within the Avia Solutions Group, contributing to humanitarian causes and supporting organizations collectively, emphasizing the commitment to operate as one group and provide aid to those in need.”

Soaring Towards a Heritage of Innovation and Impact

As Chapman Freeborn embarks on the next phase of its journey, the company, under the guidance of Batliwala and CEO of almost three years, Eric Erbacher, is poised for growth, innovation, and impactful corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Collaborations, expanding asset portfolios, and a clear vision for the future pave the way for Chapman Freeborn to continue its legacy as a global leader in the aviation industry. With an unwavering commitment to value addition and a dedication to serving society, the company remains well-positioned to navigate the dynamic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Looking toward the future, Batliwala emphasizes the significance of adding value and driving the company forward. He envisions a path of growth and innovation. With an expanding team, strategic



Eric Erbacher
CEO, Chapman Freeborn

As Chapman Freeborn embarks on the next phase of its journey, the company, under the guidance of Batliwala and CEO of almost three years, Eric Erbacher, is poised for growth, innovation, and impactful corporate social responsibility initiatives.

partnerships, and a clear roadmap for 2030, the company is poised to seize new opportunities and conquer new challenges. He states, “Even after over 36 years with Chapman Freeborn, I continue to feel excited about what we do every day, and I am continually inspired by the extraordinary people I work with. As long as I continue to add value, I will remain in my role.” This steadfast commitment to excellence and continuous improvement sets the tone for Chapman Freeborn's trajectory on its continued quest for growth beyond its first 50 years.

Reflecting on Chapman Freeborn's 50-year journey, it is evident that the company's success is not merely measured in numbers, but in its ability to adapt, innovate, and make a lasting impact. The remarkable accomplishments over the past 50 years and the resolute dedication of each person within the Chapman Freeborn Group have solidified its place as a true trailblazer in the aviation world. With an exciting future ahead, Chapman Freeborn continues to soar to new heights, leaving an indelible mark on the industry and inspiring the next generation of aviation leaders.



SkyTeam Cargo

Empowering businesses in an interconnected world

By Mohammed Irshad

Embracing the vast horizon of global air cargo transportation, a remarkable alliance emerged as an unrivaled force in the industry. Founded in 2000, SkyTeam Cargo proudly claims its position as the sole cargo airline alliance in the world, seamlessly bridging the gap between airfreight carriers in more than 150 countries worldwide.

SkyTeam Cargo has pioneered a new paradigm, revolutionizing the way goods traverse the world since its inception. The alliance's foundation was laid upon the collaborative efforts of four industry-leading airlines: Aeromexico Cargo, Air France Cargo, Delta Cargo, and Korean Air Cargo.

Since then, their pioneering spirit has inspired the addition of other members and SkyTeam Cargo now includes Aerolineas Argentinas Cargo, Aeromexico Cargo, Air France-KLM Cargo, China Cargo Airlines, Czech Airlines Cargo, Delta Cargo, ITA Airways Cargo, Korean Air Cargo, and Saudia Cargo. Aeroflot Cargo (temporarily suspended). Together, they forge an unbreakable bond, propelling the alliance to new heights and redefining the standards of excellence in cargo transportation.

At the heart of SkyTeam Cargo lies a network of extraordinary connections, spanning the globe with unmatched reach. With unwavering dedication and meticulous planning, the alliance seamlessly integrates its operations across diverse geographies and cultures, fostering a harmonious collaboration that transcends borders. This intricate web of connectivity empowers businesses, large and small, to explore untapped markets, expand their presence, and establish a global footprint.

The alliance's fleet, comprising over 2,709 aircraft, including 45 full freighters, is a testament to its unwavering commitment to excellence. From freighters purpose-built for cargo to meticulously configured passenger planes, SkyTeam Cargo boasts an array of capabilities tailored to meet the unique demands of its customers.

The alliance's dedication to providing a comprehensive suite of services is evident in its offerings, encompassing door-to-door cargo transportation, dedicated freighter flights, specialized handling services, meticulous cargo tracking and tracing, and comprehensive cargo insurance.

With each service meticulously designed and executed, SkyTeam Cargo ensures the seamless movement of goods from origin to destination, empowering businesses to thrive in an interconnected world.

In the competitive cargo transportation sector, SkyTeam Cargo is a



"Collaboration and cooperation are key to the alliance, but there is also healthy competition among the members. This balance, although accompanied by limitations, strengthens their network and makes SkyTeam Cargo stand out in the industry."

leader in innovation. **Air Cargo Update** reveals the complexities of its success and SkyTeam Cargo's crucial role in influencing the future of freight transportation by delving into its bold strategies, collaborative culture, and steadfast commitment.

Global Coverage

What sets SkyTeam Cargo apart from other groups in the industry is its unique approach as a collective force representing 11 cargo airline members. Unlike traditional



service providers, SkyTeam Cargo does not directly sell cargo capacity or own aircraft.

Instead, it acts as a representative of its member airlines, focusing on promoting and advertising their services and providing a platform for customer engagement. This collaborative model fosters a strong network and contributes to the success of the alliance. Collaboration and cooperation are key to the alliance, but there is also healthy competition among the members. This balance, although accompanied by limitations, strengthens their network, and makes the SkyTeam Cargo Alliance stand out in the industry.

One of the major strengths of SkyTeam Cargo is the global coverage offered by members from various regions around the world that provides extensive reach and connectivity. Their distinction is the only cargo alliance among the three major alliances: Star Alliance, One World, and SkyTeam. In addition, SkyTeam Cargo has offered a portfolio of branded products for more than 20 years. Based around four key pillars and designed to simplify international shipping of all types of cargo, the branded products are offered consistently across all SkyTeam Cargo members.

Optimizing Network and Enhancing Customer Experience

The SkyTeam Cargo Alliance is focused on optimizing its network and considering the value potential new candidates can bring to their existing network and customers. To strategically enhance their reach, SkyTeam Cargo welcomed Saudia Cargo as a member in 2019, addressing a gap in the Middle East and parts of Africa. The alliance carefully evaluates potential candidates to ensure unique capabilities. Opportunities to fill gaps in regions such as other parts of Africa, Oceania and inter-South America are also being explored.

With a current network covering approximately 800 stations worldwide, the alliance proudly highlights, "Nearly 20% of the world's air cargo volume is transported by our member airlines, showcasing a significant contribution and market presence in the global air cargo industry."

When discussing recent initiatives or innovations to enhance the customer experience, it is revealed that the alliance's recent focus has been on digitalization and improving its IT infrastructure. One of their ongoing initiatives is to digitally connect their networks, making it easier for customers to book double itineraries, a concept common in the passenger business.

The importance of optimizing international traffic and creating seamless connections is recognized, particularly in relation to feeding and de-feeding of cargo. The alliance exemplifies how the strength of one member airline in a particular region presents a unique opportunity for other carriers. The process, however, is currently mostly manual. Nevertheless, significant investments in technology are being made, along with efforts to establish industry standards. Active collaboration with industry organizations such as IATA is emphasized, aiming to modernize cargo distribution and establish standard API technology.

Standardized formats and message types in API communication are seen as crucial, as they encourage investment and connectivity between airlines and freight forwarders. The alliance acknowledges that the cargo industry still lags behind the passenger side in terms of technological advancement due to the complexity of the logistics chain involving multiple parties. However, the alliance remains committed to driving industry-wide adoption of standardized practices and advancing the digital capabilities of the cargo sector.

Sustainability as a Key Focus

Sustainability is a significant focus for SkyTeam Cargo, acknowledging the industry's environmental impact in the fight against climate change. Their member airlines are investing in more fuel-efficient aircraft to reduce CO2 emissions.

To help make aviation more sustainable, SkyTeam launched the Sustainable Flight Challenge, an industry-first initiative encouraging member airlines to compete to find new innovations that make a difference in categories such as fuel-efficiency and ground handling. Collaboration with organizations like Freight Force is facilitating the promotion of sustainable fuel in the industry. The importance of shared responsibility and fair distribution of costs is emphasized as crucial in driving sustainability initiatives across the industry.

Cultural Integration and Customer-Centric Approach

While there is no single common culture among the diverse partners from different regions, SkyTeam Cargo prioritizes professionalism and a customer-centric approach. Membership consideration includes requirements such as being a member of Cargo IQ and adhering to quality measurements. Efforts are made to create a common language and focus on shared priorities. Alignment is achieved through discussions



Looking ahead to the next five to 10 years, SkyTeam Cargo envisions several key factors shaping its future. One important lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is the vital role of air cargo. The world heavily relied on air cargo for essential supplies, including vaccines and protective equipment, leading to greater recognition and importance for the air cargo industry.



and setting the right priorities to assist members. For instance, in areas like sustainability, support is provided to encourage initiatives and ensure a common focus and goals.

SkyTeam Cargo's strategy is designed to align all members in the same direction, with an emphasis on customer satisfaction. The objective is to have a shared commitment to providing a satisfying customer experience. Mission statements and themes reflect the goals, such as 'global shipping made easy,' highlighting the dedication to simplifying global logistics. While partners bring their own cultural nuances, the shared objective and customer-centric approach enable effective collaboration.

Regarding future ventures and new members, SkyTeam Cargo is in discussions with potential new members and aims to expand its membership. Launching partnerships during recent events was the intention, but complexities need to be addressed. Valuing the diversity of members, it allows for learning from each other and benefiting from different perspectives. Interactions between members within the alliance are valuable for sharing knowledge and assisting each other with specific customs rulings or challenges.

Monitoring the quality of members compared to industry standards is important, although customer feedback primarily lies with individual members. Measures such as cargo IQ are utilized to assess the quality levels. Statistics consistently show that SkyTeam Cargo members maintain higher quality levels compared to non-SkyTeam Cargo members.

Looking ahead to the next five to 10 years, SkyTeam Cargo envisions several key factors shaping its future. One important lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is the vital role of air cargo. The world heavily relied on

air cargo for essential supplies, including vaccines and protective equipment, leading to greater recognition and importance for the air cargo industry.

In terms of network planning, a shift is being witnessed from traditional passenger-focused networks to a more balanced approach that considers cargo capacity as well. This trend reflects the growing significance of cargo operations.

In terms of the long-term vision for the alliance, the aim is to continue growing membership. While size alone is not the primary focus, there is a keenness to expand the alliance with both passenger-cargo carriers and pure cargo carriers. By welcoming new members, SkyTeam Cargo seeks to bring in fresh energy, diverse mindsets, and different perspectives, contributing to a dynamic alliance. The goal is to create a better mix that represents the broader cargo industry and encourages collaboration and learning among members.



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Innovations in air cargo

Transforming the Skies with Technology and Collaboration

By Mohammed Irshad

Leonard Rodrigues
Head of Revenue Management
& Network Planning at Etihad Cargo



Three cargo executives share insights into the latest trends and advancements driving the air cargo industry forward into the 21st century tech revolution.

The world of air cargo has always been synonymous with speed, efficiency, and reliability. It serves as a vital lifeline for global trade and connects businesses and communities across borders.

However, as demands for modern commerce evolve and customer expectations change, the air cargo industry finds itself at a critical juncture of transformation. In this era of digitalization and technological breakthroughs, the industry is witnessing an exciting wave of innovation that is reshaping its operations, optimizing supply chains, and ensuring a sustainable future.

In this feature, Air Cargo Update had the unique opportunity to delve deep into the realm of air cargo innovation, engaging in insightful interviews with three of the industry's most influential personalities. Leonard Rodrigues, Head of Revenue Management & Network Planning at Etihad Cargo, Cedric Millet, Chief Strategy & Digital Officer of ECS Group and President of CargoTech, and Ashwin Bhat, CEO of Lufthansa Cargo.

These cargo executives shared their insights into the latest trends and advancements driving the air cargo industry forward into the 21st century tech revolution.

Innovative Technologies Shaping the Industry

"When it comes to innovation, technology is the driving force," asserts Leonard Rodrigues, Head of Revenue Management & Network Planning at Etihad Cargo.

Digitalization, and the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning are revolutionizing air cargo operations, Rodrigues noted. Etihad Cargo, for instance, has fully embraced digital solutions, simplifying interactions with customers, partners, and stakeholders.

"Our revamped online booking portal, enhanced with AI and machine learning capabilities, allows our customers to book cargo in just 45 seconds, providing them with tailored solutions that meet their individual needs."

Cedric Millet

Chief Strategy & Digital Officer of ECS Group and President of CargoTech



"CargoAi allows forwarders to make e-bookings online and enables 'peer to peer' connections between forwarders and airline systems."

"Our revamped online booking portal, enhanced with AI and machine learning capabilities, allows our customers to book cargo in just 45 seconds, providing them with tailored solutions that meet their individual needs," he said.

Robotic process automation (RPA) is another groundbreaking technology that streamlines operations for both Etihad Cargo and its customers. "Through RPA, we have been able to automate manual labor processes, driving greater efficiencies and cost savings," explains Rodrigues.

Data analytics also plays a pivotal role in shaping decisions and optimizing capacity. "By harnessing the power of data insights, we can identify patterns and trends, allowing for more informed and agile decision-making," adds Rodrigues. In the competitive air cargo landscape, the ability to optimize operations and respond promptly to changing market dynamics is crucial for success.

Cultivating Widespread Adoption of Innovative Practices

Addressing the challenges to widespread innovation, Rodrigues emphasizes the need for greater industry normalization. "The fragmented nature of our industry requires the development of common APIs and the adoption of improved industry standards like the IATA One Record format to unlock the full potential of data scientists' efforts," he states. Etihad Cargo is actively working on partner platforms and direct API connections with key forwarders, streamlining the booking process and promoting digitalization.

Innovation adoption also hinges on collaboration and customer feedback. "At Etihad Cargo, we firmly believe in involving our customers and partners during the development of new digital tools. This collaborative approach ensures that the solutions we create not only meet the industry's needs effectively but also resonate with our stakeholders," says Rodrigues.

By actively seeking feedback and involving all relevant parties, Etihad Cargo minimizes resistance to change and accelerates the adoption of innovative practices. This collaborative spirit has been instrumental in driving innovation at Etihad Cargo and will continue to be a driving force in their future endeavors.

Successful Implementation of Innovation

Cedric Millet, Chief Strategy & Digital Officer of ECS Group and President of CargoTech, shares insights into the successful implementation of innovative practices in the air cargo industry.

He highlights CargoAi, a digital platform that has transformed the transactional booking process for forwarders. "CargoAi allows forwarders to make e-bookings online and enables 'peer to peer' connections between forwarders and airline systems," says Millet. The platform stands out with its impressive number of carriers, advanced technology, and user-friendly experience compared to competitors.

CargoTech's investment in Wiremind Cargo further showcases the power of AI in driving smarter decision-making.

Millet explains, "Wiremind Cargo focuses on revenue optimization and dynamic pricing, and they have mastered revenue optimization technology with their team of data scientists and air cargo experts." The innovative solutions offered by the company empower forwarders to optimize pricing strategies and adapt to market dynamics effectively.

Capacity forecasting is another area where AI-driven solutions are making a significant impact. "Wiremind Cargo's capacity forecasting solution enables forwarders to accurately predict cargo volume and payload, enhancing their operational efficiency," adds Millet. By leveraging AI technologies, forwarders can make informed decisions and optimize their cargo capacity more effectively.

Power of Collaboration in Fostering Innovation

Collaboration is vital to bring about transformative change in the air cargo industry, according to Millet.

In CargoTech's case, its approach revolves around uniting leading air cargo technology players to accelerate the adoption of technology-driven solutions.

"By fostering collaboration among experts and industry players, CargoTech aims to address challenges and expedite the industry's transformation," says Millet. Through strategic partnerships, CargoTech aims to drive innovation and create a positive impact on the industry.

The air cargo industry's scattered nature presents unique challenges, making collaboration all the more critical. Millet states, "The industry's fragmented structure requires concerted efforts to ensure changes are far-reaching and impactful." CargoTech's vision to unite technology and business experts aligns with its goal of driving transformational change across the industry.



Ashwin Bhat
CEO of Lufthansa Cargo



"By leveraging the ONE Record integration and IoT data from smart ULDs, Lufthansa Cargo can offer end-to-end visibility and faster solutions to customers."

Data Analytics and Digitalization as Innovation Enablers

Ashwin Bhat, CEO of Lufthansa Cargo, highlights the significant role of data analytics and digitalization in driving innovation. The airline's investments in digital services and improved booking tools demonstrate its commitment to enhancing customer service.

"By leveraging the ONE Record integration and IoT data from smart ULDs, Lufthansa Cargo can offer end-to-end visibility and faster solutions to customers," said Bhat. The company's focus on expanding capacity and software solutions for the eCommerce market segment reflects its dedication to meeting the evolving needs of the industry.

Data-driven innovation at Lufthansa Cargo extends beyond optimizing operations; it also includes a strong focus on sustainability initiatives. Bhat explains, "Our 'Sustainable Choice' service enables customers to transport

freight in a CO2-neutral manner, reflecting our commitment to environmental responsibility."

By reducing carbon emissions and fostering sustainable practices, Lufthansa Cargo aims to contribute to a greener and more environmentally conscious future for the air cargo industry.

Emerging Trends and Future Prospects

Looking ahead, Bhat discusses the growing importance of sustainability in the air cargo industry. "Reducing CO2 emissions is a shared mission, and collaboration with partners and customers. It is crucial in achieving our environmental goals," said Bhat.

The "Sustainable Choice" service offers customers the option to transport freight in a CO2-neutral manner, encouraging a collective effort towards a greener future.

In terms of technology adoption, data analytics, and AI will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping air cargo operations. "The use of digital twins, AI-driven forecasting, and robotic systems are some of the innovations poised to drive the industry forward," says Bhat. By harnessing the power of data and AI, Lufthansa Cargo aims to optimize processes, enhance decision-making, and deliver an even better customer experience.

Moreover, advancements in blockchain technology are gaining traction within the air cargo industry. "Blockchain promises enhanced transparency and security in air cargo transactions," explains Bhat. By creating a tamper-resistant and decentralized ledger, blockchain technology can streamline the flow of information and reduce processing time, ultimately benefiting the entire supply chain.

To meet the increasing demand for speed and efficiency, the industry is exploring the potential of supersonic air freight. Companies like Boom Supersonic are working on developing supersonic cargo aircraft that can drastically reduce delivery times, revolutionizing the air cargo landscape. Such advancements in speed and efficiency are poised to transform the way cargo is transported and delivered globally.

Additionally, the rise of urban air mobility and drone delivery systems is opening new possibilities for last-mile delivery in densely populated areas. "These technologies have the potential to reshape logistics in urban centers and bridge the gap between traditional cargo operations and emerging e-commerce demands," says Bhat. The evolution of urban air mobility and drone delivery systems presents exciting opportunities for the air cargo industry to address last-mile challenges and cater to the growing demands of online commerce.

A connected and sustainable future

The air cargo industry is undergoing a transformative journey, driven by innovation, collaboration, and customer-centricity. With digitalization, AI, and data analytics at its core, the industry is streamlining operations, optimizing revenue, and offering sustainable solutions.

The collaboration among industry leaders and technology players, as witnessed through initiatives pushed by companies like CargoTech, is paving the way for a more connected, efficient, and sustainable future for air cargo.

As we venture into this exciting era, these visionary leaders are guiding the industry towards a new horizon of possibilities.



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Innovations Driving the Future of Air Cargo: Transforming Operations and Enhancing Customer Experience

In the dynamic world of aviation, the air cargo industry is undergoing a profound transformation fueled by innovative technologies and solutions. These game-changing advancements are optimizing traditional cargo operations, increasing efficiency, and elevating the customer experience.

Data Analytics and AI: By harnessing big data and artificial intelligence (AI), the air cargo industry optimizes route planning, enhances load factors, and improves operational visibility. This data-driven approach streamlines processes, making airlines, ground handling agents, forwards, and shippers operate with greater efficiency.

Embracing the Internet of Things (IoT): With IoT devices attached to shipments and infrastructure, real-time cargo monitoring becomes a reality. Stakeholders can track cargo throughout its journey, identify potential bottlenecks, and ensure smooth operations, fostering better coordination and faster decision-making.

Collaborative Platforms: Digital cargo platforms facilitate collaboration among stakeholders in the cargo supply chain, leading to smoother operations and quicker responses to challenges. These platforms unite different players, enabling better coordination, communication, and visibility.

The Promise of Drones: Drones offer efficient and speedy deliveries for small, urgent, or remote cargo. By circumventing traditional infrastructure limitations, drones can revolutionize the speed and accessibility of air cargo services.

Blockchain: Securing Supply Chains and Fostering Transparency



Sebastien Claerhout
Digital Development Manager
Cargo, Brussels Airport

Blockchain technology ensures secure and transparent supply chains by recording transactions in a decentralized and immutable ledger. This reduces paperwork, improves traceability, and fosters trust between parties involved in the supply chain.

While innovation presents a world of opportunities, it also comes with challenges that must be addressed to ensure widespread adoption and success.

1. Overcoming High Investment Costs: The air cargo industry must confront high upfront costs and uncertainties surrounding the return on investment in innovative technologies. Collaborative efforts and partnerships can help distribute costs and mitigate risks.

2. Ensuring Data Sharing and Privacy: Data privacy concerns and standardization challenges can hinder seamless collaboration and trust between stakeholders. Implementing technologies like blockchain can enhance the security and transparency of data exchange, fostering a more collaborative environment.

3. Embracing Organizational Change: Resistance to change within the industry can slow down the adoption of new technologies. Engaging end-users and providing adequate training are crucial to driving successful innovation.

Successful Implementation of BRUcloud at Brussels Airport



BRUCLOUD

Success stories in the air cargo industry showcase the power of collaboration and innovation. One notable example is the successful implementation of BRUcloud at Brussels Airport, which has revolutionized cargo operations and set new standards for efficiency and transparency.

BRUcloud has facilitated a central data-sharing platform that brings together various stakeholders active at Brussels Airport, including customs. This consolidation of data has ushered in a new era of collaboration, enabling seamless communication and coordination among all parties involved in the cargo supply chain.

The benefits of BRUcloud have extended beyond data sharing alone. This innovative platform has acted as a catalyst for other transformative initiatives that have further enhanced cargo operations at the airport.

One notable initiative is the Digital Green Lane, which digitalizes and streamlines the delivery and pick-up process at Ground Handling Agents. Additionally, the perishables management application achieves 100% digitalization of perishables freight inspections upon import by the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) and facilitates benchmarking of pharmaceuticals freight handling performance compared to industry standards. These innovations are driving efficiency and transparency in the air cargo industry.

Collaboration Driving Innovation in Air Cargo

Collaboration and partnerships within the air cargo ecosystem have been

instrumental in fostering innovation and driving groundbreaking advancements in the industry. Notable instances include:

Perishables Management Application: Through collaboration between private companies and a public agency, the industry successfully transitioned from paper inspections to 100% digital perishables inspections. This significant step improved efficiency and quality for all stakeholders involved.

BRUcloud at Brussels Airport: BRUcloud is an initiative of Brussels Airport, based on Nallian's data sharing technology and supported by the BRUcargo community umbrella organization, Air Cargo Belgium. This collaboration brought together various stakeholders, including ground handling agents, freight forwarders, trucking companies, public agencies, and customs, leading to improved cargo processes and establishing Brussels Airport as a leading hub for digital transformation in the air cargo industry.



EU Green Deal Stargate Project: Brussels Airport is project leader of Stargate, an EU Green Deal project to develop initiatives for greener airports. Air Cargo

Belgium is part of the consortium with other BRU community partners and international airports (such as Budapest and Athens) to explore the elaboration of the BRUcloud application. This partnership facilitated knowledge sharing, evaluation, and feedback, promoting innovation in cargo community systems. It is also worth mentioning that the Stargate project, which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement GA101037053, is another example of a successful initiative aimed at enhancing collaboration within the air cargo community and international airports.

Driving Innovation with Data Analytics and Digitalization

Data analytics and digitalization play crucial roles in driving innovation within the air cargo industry. Companies leverage data to:

Enhance Supply Chain Transparency: Data analytics provides transparency throughout the entire supply chain, enabling stakeholders to monitor shipments and assess reliability between hubs.

Identify Bottlenecks and Optimize Operations: Data insights help pinpoint specific milestones in the air cargo supply chain, such as landside handover, customs clearance, and airside transport. By understanding these critical points, organizations can take action to increase efficiency and streamline operations.

Emerging Trends and Future Prospects for Air Cargo Innovation

Looking ahead, the air cargo industry is set to embrace emerging trends and innovation prospects. Key areas include:

Leveraging IoT and AI: Emphasizing the use of IoT and AI to capture more data along the supply chain will create increased transparency and valuable insights for data analytics, driving smarter decision-making.

Multimodal Platforms: Connecting the dots in the supply chain will lead to the development of multimodal platforms. These platforms will enable customers to choose the best transport route, combining different modes seamlessly and providing a single source of truth for shipment data. This will foster



collaboration between logistical hubs like maritime ports and airports, enhancing overall efficiency.

Stargate Project's Goals

By 2026, the Stargate project aims to optimize and improve digital cargo applications, including Digital Green Lane, Community Dashboards, Inspection Management, Road Feeder, and more, ensuring continuous advancement and innovation in the air cargo industry.



'Back to normal' scenario for air cargo sector despite new emerging challenges

By R. Chandrakanth

Airports are almost chock-a-block, airlines have decent passenger and cargo load factors, and the aviation industry is buoyant. The COVID-19 pandemic is seemingly history now and hopefully has prepared the world, not just the aviation sector, for any contingency.

The good news: People are flying in good numbers, so is cargo movement. But figures haven't reached the 2019 pre-pandemic levels for some countries.

Airports are almost chock-a-block, airlines have decent passenger and cargo load factors, and the aviation industry is buoyant. The COVID-19 pandemic is seemingly history now and hopefully has prepared the world, not just the aviation sector, for any contingency.

There have been many learnings from the pandemic. At its peak, the spotlight was on air cargo as medical and other essential supplies had to be moved across countries in double quick time and in safe and secure manner, complying with all the pharma logistics (storage and multimodal transportation) and regulatory requirements.

The pandemic, in fact, accelerated digital and sustainable operations. Not just pharma, e-commerce too, got impacted and IBM estimates that the pandemic may have accelerated the global transition to e-commerce by five years.

Cargo capacity returns to pre-pandemic levels

What is the scenario in 2023? The International Air Transport Association (IATA) reports that air cargo capacity is returning to pre-COVID levels as traffic decline has slowed down.

Global air cargo demand in April 2023 continued its year-on-year decline at a slower rate than the first three months of 2023, with cargo ton-kilometers (CTKs) falling by 6.6% compared to April 2022. IATA said industry-wide cargo capacity returned to pre-pandemic levels for the first time in three years, with available cargo ton-kilometers (ACTKs) surpassing April 2019 levels by 3.2%.

2023 second half market dynamism

Kelvin Leung, CEO, DHL Global Forwarding Asia Pacific, in the DHL Insight says the current market needs to be viewed through historical context. "What we're really seeing is an air cargo market that is starting to resemble pre-pandemic norms. Now that ocean container rates are far lower than they were, cargo that can be shipped is being shipped. A lot of bottlenecks in logistics networks have also been removed, so there is less need for emergency shipments. And obviously, we also now have more capacity, making air options cheaper and easier to access for customers. We're expecting consumer demand to improve as the year progresses, which should give the market more dynamism in the second half of the year."

In the DHL Insight, Bruce Chan, Director and Senior Research Analyst, Stifel, adds "While comparisons on all lanes against the year-over-year comps may look precipitous, current

air cargo rates are still at least 50 percent higher than pre-pandemic levels. The flip side to that coin is that there still could be room to the downside. How quickly we get back to those levels - and how much choppiness there is on the way down - is still up for grabs." Although the drops in pricing year-on-year look severe, context is everything.

Gap narrows between air and ocean freight rates

Chan notes that before COVID-19 struck, air freight costs had generally hovered at around 10 times higher than ocean freight rates for a shipment of equivalent size. However, during the pandemic and subsequent supply chain congestion, that modal spread "narrowed to around 3-5x, making air relatively more attractive".

"But that spread is now widening back to normal levels, which means that air cargo is also relatively less attractive, at least to the extent that its fungible with other modes," adds Chan.

With the price gap narrowing between the two modes of transport, the market now has options, depending upon the urgency of cargo movement.

Thomas Mack, Global Head of Air Freight, DHL Global Forwarding mentions "Aggressive spot rates across most trade lanes will continue, but with the market likely to recover toward the second half of 2023, we should see an increase in long-term rates."

Improved financial performance

Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General, states ongoing measures by key governments to fight inflation would see cargo volumes in 2023 undershoot 2019 levels by 5.6 percent. "So, the good news for air cargo is that average yields and total revenue for 2023 should remain well above what they were pre-pandemic. That should provide some respite in what is likely to be a challenging trading environment in the year ahead."

Walsh continued, "Airline financial performance in 2023 is beating expectations. Stronger profitability is supported by several positive developments. China lifted COVID-19 restrictions earlier in the year than anticipated. Cargo revenues remain above pre-pandemic levels even though volumes have not. And, on the cost side, there is some relief. Jet fuel prices, although still high, have moderated over the first half of the year."



Inflation remains on the radar

However, worldwide high inflation is likely to continue through 2023 and Germany is the first to go into recession, while the UK is holding up. This is a fall-out of high energy prices, compounded by the unending Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"More capacity is coming to the market and consumer demand has dropped due to high inflation. Now yields are higher than pre-COVID but coming down because consumer demand is dropping," points out Ashok Kumar, Executive Vice President and Head of Global Air Freight, DB Schenker.

Overall, inflation is likely to stabilize across economies, even though spending growth in several countries has registered a decline. The scenario in India and Brazil is different where it has stabilized and in China too it is reported to be around 0.1 percent.

Need for more freighters

With capacity opening up, both dedicated freighter and belly space in airlines, some customers have started locking in space, even as prices are declining, enthusing carriers.

Boeing's World Air Cargo Forecast (WACF) says there the world would need 1,600 global freighter fleet and 1,855 freighter conversion deliveries by 2041 with 4.1% annual air cargo traffic growth through that period.

In anticipation of surge in cargo growth, several operators have started investing in expanding capacity. For instance, DHL Express is adding a new facility at Munich Airport, expected to be ready by next year, with an investment of EUR 104 million.

Meanwhile, shipping giant A.P.Moller-Maersk is bolstering its growing freighter network between mainland China, Southeast-Asia, Europe and the US by increasing frequencies on regular flights as well as introducing additional aircraft. It recently opened a new air freight facility at Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Chicago Rockford International Airport.



Willie Walsh

E-commerce, a driving force

Without much noise, retail giant Amazon has added 73 planes to its fleet. Another 10 Airbus A330-300s, leased through Altavair and operated by Hawaiian Airlines, will take flight in late 2023 for the company.

From its first aircraft in 2016 – 'Amazon One', the e-commerce behemoth has expanded its air cargo network all in its efforts to keep the promises it has made to customers on fast, free deliveries.

Amazon is investing in planes for the simple reason that global e-commerce revenues are expected to more than double pre-pandemic levels by 2026, reaching \$8.1 trillion, up from \$3.4 trillion in 2019, and five times higher than the \$1.5 trillion spent in 2015, according to IATA. Cross-border e-commerce relies on air cargo.

Imarc Group reports the global courier, express and parcel market will touch \$540.8 billion by 2028, up from \$415.3 billion in 2022, exhibiting a compounded annual growth rate of 4.4 percent during 2023-2028.

The recovery of air cargo capacity can be attributed to airlines back in the skies, making available belly-hold cargo space. The ACTKs from passenger flights experienced a remarkable increase of 47.9 percent in April, while ACTKs from dedicated freighters contracted by 2.3 percent.

IATA stated that in April, international capacity increased 10.7 percent year-on-year, consistent with the faster recovery of belly-hold capacity in international passenger markets.

2023 is going to be some kind of a turning point for the cargo industry as shipping lines open up fully and with the learnings from the pandemic, freight forwarders will weigh all options before booking cargo.

The air cargo industry is heading towards a 'back to normal' scenario but with a thriving global e-commerce, the sector needs to rethink on 'revenue management', the added advantage is that digitization has kicked in big time, adding to optimization of resources. All in all, the sector remains buoyant with all the challenges and that is heartening.



DAF introduces Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil-powered trucks

New generation DAF trucks ready for 100% HVO, fuel made from waste products and fats from the food industry.



Much has been said about electric powered vehicles and the potential use of hydrogen technology in the transport sector. But apart from these environment-friendly alternative fuel sources, vegetable oil could also be an option.

DAF Trucks announced in addition to the introduction of a complete series of fully electric trucks and the development of hydrogen technology, it's getting its combustion engines ready for new types of fuel to further reduce CO₂ emissions, the HVO or Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil.

HVO is a biofuel of the latest generation that enables a reduction in CO₂ emissions of up to 90% and can perfectly be used in all New Generation DAF trucks.

Made from waste products and fats from the food industry, HVO is currently the most sustainable fuel on the market for diesel trucks and offers a reduction of up to 90% in CO₂ emissions ('Well-to-wheel') compared with regular diesel, DAF noted, adding, unlike previous generations of biofuels, HVO has no impact on food production.

In addition to the environmental benefits, another important advantage is that HVO can be used in DAF trucks without any adjustments to the vehicles, while maintaining the trucks' excellent performance, as well as the service intervals of up to 200,000 kilometres for long-distance transport.

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Suited for the full DAF product range

All of the newest generation of DAF trucks are ready to use 100% HVO, including the popular LF series for distribution transport, the versatile XD ('International Truck of the Year 2023') for distribution and specific applications and the 'top-of-the-range' XF, XG and XG+ ('International Trucks of the Year 2022') for heavy and long-distance transport.

"DAF is at the forefront of our society's ambition to reduce CO₂ emissions," according to Patrick Dean, chief engineer at DAF Trucks and member of the Board of Management.

"In 2018 we were the first to launch a fully electric truck and last year we presented a completely new generation of electric trucks with 'zero-emission' ranges of up to 500 kilometres. We are also getting ready for the new generations of fuels. HVO is enabling us to make a giant leap in the reduction of CO₂ emissions, already today, with the current trucks on the market and more importantly 'well-to-wheel'. When it comes to CO₂ certification of trucks, it would be a huge step forward if European legislation would value the contribution of clean fuels to reduce CO₂ emissions, as we cannot afford to leave opportunities unused to achieve sustainable road transport. This should expand focus on the total chain – from energy source up to what's coming out of the exhaust – instead of focusing on 'tank-to-wheel' only," he added. Source: www.daf.com



Micky Adriaansens, Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, left, leads the opening ceremony of DAF's new assembly plant for battery electric trucks.



New DAF Electric Truck Assembly plant officially opened

DAF's completely new assembly plant for battery electric trucks covering an area of 5,000 m² was officially opened in April.

The new facility has been commissioned at DAF's main production site in Eindhoven, the Netherlands and will be instrumental in the further development of the company's leading position in providing sustainable transport solutions.

The new DAF Electric Truck Assembly plant includes two sub-assembly lines for the preparation of the battery packs as well as the Electric Drive Module, consisting of the front battery pack, high voltage junction box and electrified auxiliaries. These key components as well as the e-motor with integrated gearbox are installed onto the vehicle on the main assembly line which is almost 150 metres long.

Newest generation battery-electric trucks

DAF has built its DAF Electric Truck Assembly plant for the production of its latest generation of battery electric trucks. The New DAF XD and XF Electric are available in a range of configurations.

These are powered by PACCAR e-Motors and equipped with battery packs of 2 up to 5 strings (210 to 525 kWh). The modular approach allows the trucks to be tailored precisely to customer requirements and needs. Full electric ranges of up to 500 kilometres are possible making 1,000 'zero emission' kilometres achievable with careful planning of routes and recharging. With fast charging of up to 350 kW, battery packs can be charged to 80% of their capacity in only 45 minutes.

Production of quality validation trucks is about to start

with series production of customer vehicles planned from the summer. DAF expects production to increase to thousands of vehicles per annum in the near future, in line with the increasing demand for fully electric trucks.

Minister: 'DAF leading the way'

"DAF has been a leading player in the manufacture of trucks for many years and is currently playing a prominent and innovative role in the development of electric trucks. The transition to cleaner products and production methods is important. Not only for the environment but also to ensure that the Netherlands retains its competitive edge. This new factory for battery electric trucks is a shining example of that ambition," said Micky Adriaansens, Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

Harald Seidel, DAF Trucks' President, said the company's new assembly plant "represents another important milestone on the road to an even cleaner future."

"To support our customers in the transition to zero emission road transport, we go further than delivering class-leading full electric vehicles. Our comprehensive package includes a broad range of charging solutions, advice on planning of routes and charging, and the provision of dedicated training for drivers to get the best out of the vehicles," he said.

Etihad Airways among most punctual airlines in Middle East for H1 2023



Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, ranks among the most on-time airlines in the Middle East and one of the most punctual carriers worldwide. In the first half of 2023, Etihad has achieved an on-time arrival performance rating within 15 minutes of 83.4%.

In its Punctuality League ratings for 2023, thus far, the global aviation analytics group (OAG) lists Etihad as one of the few airlines in the Middle East that consistently operates above 80% on-time arrival performance and maintains one of the lowest cancellation rates worldwide.

“This half year result is an important milestone for Etihad Airways, and a testament to the airline’s commitment to consistently deliver reliable operations while exploring further innovative solutions to enhance it. Four million passengers will fly with Etihad over the summer months via its home base, Abu Dhabi International Airport, a strong partner that underpins the airline’s successful operations. Guests can expect a reliable flight schedule coupled with an award-winning service,” said Mohammad Al Bulooki, Chief Operating Officer of Etihad Airways.

On-time performance is defined by OAG as a flight arriving within 15 minutes of its scheduled time – a standard measure within the airline industry, taking into account the large range of variable factors which can affect operations.

Wizz Air Abu Dhabi launches an exciting new route to Erbil, Iraq

Abu Dhabi, UAE: Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, the ultra-low-fare national airline of the UAE, has launched its latest route to Erbil, the ancient capital city of the Kurdistan Region in Iraq and an important trade center for over 8,000 years.

The new route reaffirms the airline’s commitment to carrying the flag of ultra-low-cost travel in the region and unlocking an eclectic mix of travel opportunities for both residents and visitors of the UAE. Flights to Erbil will commence on 06 October and will operate twice a week on Monday and Friday.

Tickets are already on sale on wizzair.com and the airline’s mobile app, available in the Arabic language, with fares starting as low as AED 289*.

Erbil is a modern metropolis with a rich history, warm hospitality, and stunning landscapes. With a vibrant culture and incredible historical sites, including the ancient Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, travellers of all ages can immerse themselves in multiple historical civilizations. Some of the must-see historical and natural attractions include the Sami Abdul Rahman Park, Jalil Khayat Mosque and Kurdish textile museum with memorable and enriching travel experiences awaiting.

Basking in glorious year round sunshine, Abu Dhabi is a world-renowned family friendly destination with incredible art, culture, tradition and hospitality offerings. The UAE capital, blessed with stunning beach resorts, excellent cultural



offerings and exciting attractions offers visitors a warm welcome and breath taking natural and built beauty.

The city offers an enriching historical experience and a bustling culture to explore with a plethora of both relaxation and adventure options to suit all ages.

Johan Eidhagen, Managing Director of Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, said the airline is bent on strengthening connectivity between Abu Dhabi and the region.

“We continue to play a pivotal role in contributing to the growth of the UAE’s travel and tourism sector and connecting its capital with an eclectic mix of marvellous destinations, with Erbil the latest captivating city in our exciting expansion plans. We are committed to expanding our network into more countries across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. We look forward to seeing you on board our aircraft and sharing our love of adventure soon,” he said.



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Ethiopian graduates over 1500 aviation professionals from 7 African countries



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Ethiopian Aviation University, the largest aviation center of excellence in Africa, conferred degrees to 1,551 aviation professionals in pilot training, aviation maintenance, cabin crew, commercial, and hotel operations professions.

The graduation ceremony was held on August 5, 2023, at the newly upgraded Ethiopian Aviation University, Commercial Building. The graduates were from Ethiopia, Rwanda, Togo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, and Sudan.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew congratulated the new graduates. "Human capital development is one of the key pillars in Ethiopian Airlines growth strategic road map," he said.

"As part of our continental commitment, we will continue to provide Africa with skilled aviation professionals. We are delighted to see today youths from seven African countries completing one chapter and opening another in their aviation endeavor. We believe in the potential of Africa's youths to shape the continent's aviation and continue to educate them at our center of excellence. Today the industry welcomes 660 male and 891 female graduates," he noted.

Since its formation in 1956, Ethiopian Aviation Excellence Center has been offering various aviation courses, mainly to African youths.

The university currently offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs in the aerospace and hospitality fields. Courses being offered at the University include BSc in Aeronautical Engineering, Aviation Maintenance Engineering, Aviation Management & Operations, BA in Tourism & Hospitality Management, MSc in Data Science, and MBA in Aviation Management.

The University also offers Diploma and Certificate Programs in Aircraft Maintenance Technician, Pilot Training, Cabin Crew and Commercial Training, Leadership & Career Development, and Catering Training, in addition to ICAO Courses and Online Courses.

Ethiopian also owns training facilities in regional cities which include Hawassa, Dire-Dawa, Bahir-Dar, and Mekelle.

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2024**



18th - 21st January 2024

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In pursuance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to fulfil the common man's aspirations of flying and the grand success of the previous edition, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India, Airport Authority of India (AAI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) are organizing the next edition of 'WINGS INDIA 2024', a flagship event on Civil Aviation sector in this part of the world. The event is scheduled from 18th to 21st, January 2024, at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, India.

Wings India 2024 will be the most comprehensive event on the Civil Aviation Industry calendar that includes the Inaugural Ceremony, Global Ministerial Conference, Global CEOs' Forum, B2B / B2G Meetings and Awards Ceremony, Cultural Evening & Business Networking Dinner. Also, the event includes Exhibition, Chalets, Demonstration flights, Static Display, Media Conferences, One-to-One Business Meetings and many more.

Event Format

- EXHIBITION 
- CONFERENCE 
- CHALETS 
- CEOs FORUM 
- STATIC DISPLAY 
- MEDIA CONFERENCES 
- AWARDS 

Exhibitors Profile

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Robots strengthen Hactl's security at Hong Kong's SuperTerminal 1

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's largest independent handler, Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (Hactl), is beefing up security at its SuperTerminal 1 facility, with the introduction of robot patrols.

The first security robot is about to enter service, initially patrolling car- and truck parking areas, and export goods handling areas, mainly during the peak night-time period; but the robot will also be deployed during daylight hours as required.

In addition to stepping up anti-theft measures and reinforcing awareness of Hactl's rigid security program, the new security robots will also monitor the condition of cargo throughout the company's giant site, and will record any incidents of damage, to provide video evidence in the event of claims investigations.

The robot features a thermal imaging camera, a high-resolution camera with a wiper for outdoor use, a LiDar technology sensor for navigation and multiple ultrasonic sensors for collision avoidance. It can operate on any paved surface.

"The security robots will complement our existing CCTV system, providing footage from more angles to assist in security and cargo claims evaluation. Their presence will also send a clear message that Hactl is maintaining thorough observation of all its operational areas around the clock," said Wilson Kwong, Chief Executive of Hactl.

"By reducing reliance on human patrols, we are freeing up valuable night shift security staff resources to focus on making our security regime even more proactive, flexible and responsive to any incidents. This is a significant step forward in strengthening our overall security program."

This is the third area of Hactl's business which has seen the introduction of robotics. During the pandemic, Hactl introduced sanitisation robots to help



reduce the risk of infection among its workforce, and more recently launched a robotic Automated Parts Store to dispense urgent spare parts which are needed around the clock to maintain its massive automated handling systems.



Biman Bangladesh Airlines supercharges connectivity with SITA connect ahead of ambitious growth plans

Dhaka, Bangladesh: Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. (BG) has partnered with SITA to adopt a suite of state-of-the-art connectivity solutions that will increase network speeds, optimize the airline's operations, and reduce expansion costs.

SITA said SITA Connect Go, its new Secure SD-WAN (Software-Defined Wide Area Network) solution designed specifically for the air transport industry, will be used by BG.

Using this suite of solutions will empower the airline with an increased bandwidth of up to 600%, enabling unrivaled speed, flexibility, and agility to connect quickly and securely to applications and systems at their town and airport offices.

These enhancements have been extended to BG at no additional cost demonstrating a reduction in total cost ownership as BG expands its network, SITA noted.

The deployment will improve the airline's performance by giving the IT operations team a granular view and full visibility into their network usage and application performance. This will enable better decision-making and critical business application performance. It is all managed through a centralized platform that simplifies network management and orchestration.

The deal comes as SITA and BG celebrate 50 years of partnership and will future-proof the airline's operations for planned growth, ensuring BG is ready to embrace a hybrid cloud environment in the future and add new applications as and when they need to.

"We're thrilled to commemorate a 50-year partnership with Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. and provide the latest cutting-edge connectivity solutions that will be the foundations for their next growth chapter. Connectivity is the backbone of our industry, and smart, efficient, and agile technology operations will be the defining factor for success in this next era of air transport. We're excited to support BG in their ambitious plans and look forward to many more years of powerful collaboration," said Sumesh Patel, President, Asia Pacific, SITA.

Shafiu Azim of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd., MD & CEO of BG, described SITA as an "effective and trusted technology partner of the airline for half-a-century, saying, "Ensuring our airline's applications and systems are optimized is critical. With SITA Connect, we can infuse our entire operation with lightning-fast and secure connections that can be adapted over time as we scale. We're delighted about the planned growth from 21 aircraft to 45 by 2030 and look forward to ensuring smooth and reliable air travel for passengers in the coming years."

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Abu Dhabi International Airport welcomes 67% more travelers during the first half of the year

operations, technological integrations, and an ever-expanding partnership ecosystem. Our aim is to build on this momentum, reinforcing Abu Dhabi International Airport's position as a preferred airport in the region, with a focus on delivering service excellence to our guests every day," said Frank McCrorie, Chief Operations Officer, Abu Dhabi Airports.

During H1 2023, the international airport handled 259,461 tons of air freight. Cargo is expected to gain momentum at Abu Dhabi International Airport which is primed to emerge as a leading air cargo and logistics hub by forging new strategic partnerships.

In April 2023, Abu Dhabi International Airport welcomed the inaugural flight of SF Express, signaling the global freight leader's launch of regional operations from the capital of the UAE.

This year, Abu Dhabi Airports was recognized for its enduring commitment to providing world-class customer experience, winning the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award for 'Best Airport at Arrivals Globally'.

Abu Dhabi, UAE: Abu Dhabi International Airport continues its upward trajectory with its operator, Abu Dhabi Airports, announcing the airport's passenger traffic results for the first half of 2023 increased by 67 percent.

Abu Dhabi airport welcomed 6.158 million passengers from 01 January to 30 June 2022, reflecting the 67 percent jump this year with more than 10.3 million passengers served.

Abu Dhabi International Airport's network continues to expand rapidly with 114 destinations served by 27 airlines during H1 2023. The destinations with the highest passenger traffic it served during the period included Mumbai (461,081), London (374,017), Delhi (331,722), Kochi (316,460), and Doha (261,117).

"Our passenger traffic figures for the first half of 2023 highlight our extensive efforts to support Abu Dhabi's increasingly vibrant business, tourism, and aviation sectors. Sustained increases in passenger numbers and flights also highlight Abu Dhabi Airports' growth plans, in parallel with exemplary

Passenger volume at Hamad International Airport in H1 2023 rises by 33.5%

Doha, Qatar: Hamad International Airport (DOH) continues its impressive growth in passenger traffic posting 33.5 percent growth during the first half of 2023.

The airport said it welcomed a total of 20.78 million passengers during the period. Aircraft movements during the first half of 2023 also increased compared to last year, with a total of 116,296 arriving and departing from the airport – 56,417 in the first quarter of 2023 and 59,879 in the second quarter.

As for cargo, Hamad Airport said it handled 1,121,382 tons of cargo and moved 17,596,776 bags, including

11,376,483 transfer bags through its facility.

Hamad International Airport said its commitment to investing in the latest technologies has allowed it to implement advanced screening technology to reduce processing time and enhance security within the facility.

The adoption of the latest screening equipment allows transferring passengers to keep their electronic devices, along with liquid containers in their hand luggage. During the second quarter of the current year, the average processing time for transferring passengers at security checkpoints was 28 seconds per passenger.

"We are pleased to witness a surge in passenger traffic during the first half of this year. Our unwavering focus on enhancing our operations and investing in growth strategies has allowed us to augment our airport infrastructure and expand our product offerings. With these advancements, we aim to fortify our competitive position in the aviation industry and continue to exceed expectations," said Hamad International Airport Chief Operating Officer Engr. Badr Mohammad Al Meer.

Over the past year, Hamad International Airport has expanded its facilities, introduced new leisure offerings, and adopted cutting-edge technologies.

Home to the recently opened Louis Vuitton Lounge, the first of its kind at an airport and offering a wide range of bespoke retail and dining options, the airport is committed to providing an exceptional travel experience to all its passengers.

Looking towards the future, phase B of the airport expansion is currently underway and once completed will increase the airport's capacity to more than 70 million passengers annually. The expansion will ensure that Hamad International Airport retains its position as an industry leader, as passenger numbers in the Middle East are expected to double by 2040, according to the recently disclosed figures by IATA.



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Over 22 million travel bags handled at Dubai airports while Dubai Customs revolutionizes travel experience

The POD also provides the Pre-Export Initiative, aimed at enhancing customer satisfaction by attracting traders and cargo carriers of valuable goods. This service allows for the completion of re-export transactions and storage of shipments in advance before departure, utilizing the storage fees for customs warehouses. So far, 382 beneficiaries have availed themselves of this initiative which is currently being run as a pilot program.

Among the services provided is also the Self-Handling Service for delivering customs documents to companies around the clock through a self-service option using smart QR code boxes. Within six months, 3,601 clients have benefited from this service, which is available to users 24/7.

Additionally, POD offers the Electronic Control System, an innovative and intelligent operational mechanism that links inspection departments with electronic systems and monitoring mechanisms.

Ibrahim Al Kamali, Director of the Passenger Operations Department at Dubai Customs, said the department remains committed in facilitating seamless customs procedures for travelers, ensuring their satisfaction, providing optimal reception, and enhancing the services offered to them.

Dubai, UAE: Dubai Customs has intensified its efforts to facilitate travel and tourism at Dubai's airports as more passengers opt to fly this year with the pandemic no longer a threat.

The customs centers under the management of the Passenger Operations Department (POD) have efficiently handled over 22.139 million travel bags in the first half of 2023, Dubai Customs reported.

The time required for travelers to pass through airports was significantly reduced without any delays. This was attributed to the development of inspection and scanning devices at the customs centers. These advanced devices, coupled with the inspectors' expertise in interpreting body language, enable them to effectively detect attempts to smuggle prohibited substances.

They ensure a high level of efficiency through thorough inspection and monitoring, preventing any illicit items from being concealed in passengers' luggage or hidden within their bodies.

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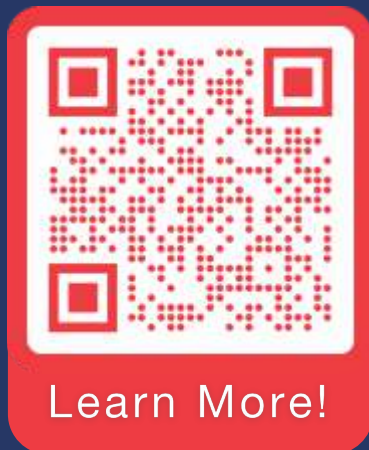
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Dubai welcomes 8.5mn tourists in H1 2023 as real estate sales surges in value

DUBAI, UAE: Global business and financial hub Dubai welcomed more than 8.5 million tourists in the first half of 2023 and sales and transactions in the city's real estate industry surged in value to AED285 million (about US\$78 million) during the period, the state-run news agency WAM reported.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, said Dubai continues to reinforce its position as a major global economic hub, guided by the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

"Dubai's economic performance indicators for the first half of 2023 have exceeded expectations. These exceptional results bolster our outlook for record results in the coming months. We look forward to a new, strong beginning in 2024, during which we seek to further enhance the business environment and accelerate economic growth in order to contribute to the goals of Dubai Economic Agenda D33," said Sheikh Hamdan, underscoring Dubai's emergence as one of the world's safest and most attractive cities to live, visit and work.

"Dubai further consolidated its status as the world's leading tourist destination in the first half of 2023. We welcomed more than 8.5 million international visitors in the first six months of the year while Dubai Financial Market (DFM)-listed companies recorded a total market value of AED652 billion. Dubai also strengthened its status as one of the world's top three hubs for wealth owners, and one of the fastest-recovering cities since the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very proud of what we have achieved so far this year, and the confidence that we have inspired in the global community," he further said.

The government has rolled out the Dubai Economic Agenda D33 which seeks to increase foreign direct investment inflows to AED60 billion annually over the next decade. Dubai is envisioned to become a global role model for economic resilience, growth, diversification and prosperity.

Dubai was named the world's top-ranked destination in Tripadvisor's Travellers' Choice Awards 2023. It also emerged as one of the world's three most attractive cities for the wealthy and one of the cities that have recovered



H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

the fastest from the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to its strategic location, robust infrastructure and economic growth.

Dubai's financial stock markets remain robust and poised for growth while its real estate industry continues to post remarkable performance with transactions for the first half of the year reaching AED285 million.

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Dubai's financial stock markets remain robust and poised for growth while its real estate industry continues to post remarkable performance with transactions for the first half of the year reaching AED285 million.



Dronamics makes history as the first cargo drone airline with IATA and ICAO designator codes

These codes also enable collaboration with other IATA carriers and flight schedule publication through OAG. Additionally, Dronamics secures ICAO's "Black Swan" call sign and "DXE" airline code, vital for flight planning, communication with air traffic control, and NOTAM dissemination. With these codes, Dronamics solidifies its position as the world's first cargo drone airline, emphasizing its dedication to revolutionizing air cargo transportation. The achievement opens doors to new opportunities and integration within the global aviation ecosystem.

London, UK: Dronamics, the world's first cargo drone airline licensed to operate in Europe, has achieved a groundbreaking milestone by obtaining both IATA and ICAO designator codes. This distinction makes Dronamics the first cargo drone airline to be officially recognized on par with international airlines.

Dronamics achieves significant milestones in aviation with IATA and ICAO codes. The assignment of IATA's "OY" code and "651" prefix allows Dronamics to establish itself as an official airline, issue Air Waybills, and streamline cargo uplift.

Dronamics leads the industry with its flagship cargo drone, the Black Swan. This large, long-range aircraft can transport 350 kg (770 lb) over distances of up to 2,500 km (1,550 mi) faster, cheaper, and with lower emissions than traditional airfreight. Same-day shipping is now possible in sectors like pharmaceuticals, food, e-commerce, and spare parts. With a team of experienced experts in aerospace, logistics, and technology, Dronamics is at the forefront of the industry.

As Europe's first licensed cargo drone airline and IATA's Strategic Partner for drones worldwide, the company is shaping the future of air cargo transportation. Notably, Dronamics is co-funded by the European Union through the prestigious European Innovation Council, demonstrating its commitment to innovation and leadership in drone-based logistics.



UK freight association elects new national chair and vice-chair

London, UK: Charles Hogg has succeeded Rachel Morley as the elected national chair of BIFA – the British International Freight Association – for a two-year period.

Charles, commercial director at BIFA member company, Unsworth, who has been vice-chair for the past two years, was appointed a director of BIFA in 2019 and chairs the trade association's Surface Policy Group.

Alongside Charles will be Keith Baguley, UK import manager at Atlantic Container Line (ACL) who became BIFA's regional chairman, Merseyside in 2018, and has now been elected as vice-chair. Rachel becomes immediate past chair for a two-year term, and Sir Peter Bottomley, MP, remains as BIFA

president.

BIFA Director General Steve Parker comments: "In welcoming Charles and Keith into their new positions, I wish to

express my appreciation for the contribution made by Rachel Morley over many years; and pleasure that Sir Peter has agreed to continue in office. Charles and Keith's' wide-ranging experience and senior roles in successful freight



Keith Baguley, Charles Hogg and Rachel Morley

forwarding companies will ensure that BIFA and its members will benefit greatly from these new appointments."

TrueNoord announces Paul Murphy as new Chief Financial Officer

Amsterdam/Dublin/London/Singapore: Specialist regional aircraft lessor, TrueNoord, has announced the appointment of industry expert, Paul Murphy, in the role of CFO.

Having recently held senior finance roles with SMBC Aviation Capital, Goshawk Aviation and ORIX Aviation, Murphy will be responsible for fiscal reporting & analysis, tax, treasury

operations and corporate finance at TrueNoord.

With proven experience of leading large international teams, Murphy will steer the business' financial operations. "I'm pleased to join TrueNoord at this key stage of the organisation's evolution and look forward to seeking new and innovative ways to help scale up its platform and

grow the business."

Prior to joining TrueNoord, Murphy served as Head of Finance of Goshawk Aviation before its sale to SMBC Aviation Capital in December 2022. Part of the management team at Goshawk, he transformed the Finance and Managed Asset functions to support the growth of the business. Before this, he held senior finance positions at ORIX Aviation, initially working as Vice President - Finance, then holding the role of Director, Group Accounting & Treasury.

Murphy initially trained with KPMG and then went on to become an Audit Manager in their Financial Services Division, primarily working with clients in the aviation sector. He holds a Commerce Degree, a Masters in Accounting and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ireland.



Paul Murphy



Steffen Boettger



Kira Fabiunke

Leipzig, Germany: Mitteldeutsche Flughafen AG (MFAG) has reorganized and restructured its sales operations. Kira Fabiunke and Steffen Böttger took over the "Sales Airlines" and the "Sales Cargo" departments on 1 July.

Both of them will report to Frank Pieper, who himself took over the leadership of the "Business Development and Strategy" division on 1 April this year.

Kira will be responsible for the "Sales Airlines"

MFAG reorganizes sales operations

department as its manager. Steffen is taking over the management responsibility in the "Sales Cargo" department. Both of them have proven sales and airline expertise and formerly worked for Air Berlin or Lufthansa: Kira can look back on 15 years of sales work and many years of experience in domestic and international business travel and airline sales work.

Steffen worked until recently as the "Head of Customer Service" at PortGround, thus, has broad operating experience in freight handling too. Prior to this, he spent many years working in sales and key account management at Boeing and Lufthansa, both of which are companies with international operations.

Frank, the Head of the Business Development & Strategy division, underlines the importance of this development. "I'm convinced that this new personnel restructuring process will bring a breath of fresh air to our operations, which is what we need to be successful in the long term. We'll continue to work hard and focus on our strengths in order to offer our customers the best possible services. I'd like to thank all those involved on the Executive Board, in the personnel department and particularly at PortGround, who have supported this development in a very constructive and cooperative manner."

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Upcoming Events



The 13th International Conference on Logistics & Transport 2023

This is the 13th international conference organized by the Centre for Logistics Research at Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, the Graduate School of Chiang Mai University and the Supply Chain and Engineering Management Research Unit of Chiang Mai University. Hosted by Hanken School of Economics, this is a major event for researcher in transport, logistics, supply chain and value chain management especially in the Asia Pacific region.

The theme for this year's event is "Circular Supply Chain for Resilience". With the current movement towards an eco-friendly future, the role of repurposing what is once viewed as "waste" are recycled back in the manufacturing operation. Along with the adaptation of data analytics in supply chain, physical internet, blockchain in supply chain, digital supply chain, computer applications in supply chain and disruptive technologies, resilience in circular supply chain have received a considerable attention in the current domain of supply chain management.

27-29 September 2023, Helsinki, Finland

2023 FIATA World Congress

FIATA has been convening industry leaders and innovators in logistics at its flagship FIATA World Congress (FWC). This annual event, which takes place between September and October, brings together 1,000 to 1,500 participants from the logistics, transport, and cargo industries, as well as observers from other sectors and a significant number of institutional attendees.

The FWC is an international event offering business, social and networking opportunities, as well as interaction with governmental and non-governmental organisations. High-profile speakers and policy issue debates are essential components of the event's programme.

The 2023 FIATA World Congress will take place in Brussels, Belgium in October, where we will meet to exchange, learn, network with new faces, and enjoy the best of Belgium culture! Brussels is considered the de facto capital of the European Union, where key decisions are made on a daily basis and where more than 2000 international associations are present for that very reason.

3-6 October 2023 | Brussels, Belgium

Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023

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

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

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

23-25 October 2023

W Marriott Absheron Hotel, Baku, Azerbaijan

Air Cargo Americas 2023

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

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

31 Oct – 2 Nov 2023

Miami Airport Convention Center | Miami, Florida, USA

Air Cargo/Transport Logistic Southeast Asia

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

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

1 - 3 November, 2023

Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, Singapore



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