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Director General, TIACA

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Facing the inevitable

2023 is supposed to be the year when the world hoped to have rebounded from the onslaught of the 2020 COVID pandemic. But on February 24, 2022, Russia launched an aggressive attack against Ukraine, creating unprecedented challenges globally on rising gas & energy prices, food security, unprecedented increase on cost of living, disruptions on the supply-chain and so on, derailing nations' economic and social recovery efforts.

The war in Ukraine will mark its first anniversary next month and there seems to be no clear sign of it ending despite mounting global sanctions against Russia.

Add to that are new threats of COVID-19 variants rising in cases in different countries, the continued global inflation, debts, income inequality, climate change threats, volatile economic and political situations in many parts of the world, dragging the IMF forecast global economic growth this year to 3.2 percent from 5.5 percent in 2021.

"The rapid spread of the Omicron variant indicates that the pandemic will likely continue to disrupt economic activity in the near term. In addition, a notable deceleration in major economies—including the United States and China—will weigh on external demand in emerging and developing economies. At a time when governments in many developing economies lack the policy space to support activity if needed, new COVID-19 outbreaks, persistent supply-chain bottlenecks and inflationary pressures, and elevated financial vulnerabilities in large swaths of the world could increase the risk of a hard landing," the IMF said in its latest forecast, indicating recession is an inevitable result of all these challenges.

Indeed, it's going to be a very challenging year that's going to impact all industries, including air cargo, especially with the foreseen prolonged disruption on global supply-chains.

Facing the inevitable, however, with hope, strategic plans, agility, flexibility and sound decisions will sail us through another imminent storm. Wishing you all the best this year!

Gemma Q. Casas
Editor-in-Chief

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The Lounge

'Travel is a great way to stay connected with a grown-up family'



Glyn Hughes
Director General, TIACA

Glyn Hughes, the first Director General of The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA), is putting more emphasis on just how big a sustainable aviation and air cargo industries have on the planet now struggling to fight off climate change.

With about 100,000 planes flying every day across continents, aviation has huge environmental impact on the planet.

Hughes, who works from his home in Switzerland, shares he uses public transport where possible, as a conscious effort to support a sustainable planet.

"I have changed aspects of my diet and travel emissions are offset, work and private travel. Professionally, TIACA is building a strong portfolio of activities to support the industry on its sustainability journey. We hold an annual survey to assess the whole supply chain, we produce an insights report, we have produced an industry road map, which also looks at the way we support the United Nations sustainable development goals, we hold annual Sustainability awards and recently launched the BlueSky program, very important area of activity for us," he said.

At TIACA, he strongly promotes sustainability, saying, "Every day there are new challenges and new opportunities. Air cargo

serves the global economy so any change in patterns of consumption, production, supply chains, regulations, technology innovation etc impacts this industry. So, we must always evolve in response."

This, he has been doing for almost four decades now, having started early in the air cargo sector. Born in Crawley, a town in the UK very near Gatwick airport, Hughes started temporary work for a freight forwarder soon after leaving school. Then worked for British Caledonian, an airline which sadly disappeared back in the 1980s.

It's been a long journey with too many peaks. "I would say the highest points have been related to the wonderful people I have had the opportunity to learn from, to work with and build friendships for life. I have been very fortunate to work with many young people and help encourage them along their chosen career path which I find very rewarding. I was also part of the team at IATA which developed the CASS Link tool which is still in use today, over 20 years later," said Hughes.

Hughes took over as the Director General of TIACA when the pandemic was at its peak and the challenges were many, issues from PPE movements to staff restrictions, to crew operational challenges to safe movement of vaccine, to moving crucial commodities, among other tasks. TIACA also forged alliances with Pharma.Aero, UNICEF and the COVAX program.

Amidst all these activities getting the right work / life balance is always difficult.

"When we are together, there is usually lots of discussions, lots of laughter, lots of games. We enjoy escape rooms and quizzes and during the Covid restrictions we had many zoom quizzes and family nights."

"During my career there were times when it wasn't well balanced but now as we all love holidays and exploring new places, travel is a great way to stay connected with a grown-up family. As I work remotely now, I can also be more flexible where that remote location is so that also helps to stay connected. When we are together, there is usually lots of discussions, lots of laughter, lots of games. We enjoy escape rooms and quizzes and during the covid restrictions we had many zoom quizzes and family nights," Hughes shared.

Hughes lives in Switzerland and loves outdoor activities, enjoying cycling downhill, less enjoyable on the way back. "I also enjoy traveling and with my kids living in different countries I like to visit them as often as possible. Although to quote them "not too often, please!" His favourite destination is Iceland as one can experience all four seasons in a single day.

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FedEx Express advances sustainable operations with electric vehicle trials in the UAE

Dubai, UAE: FedEx Express (FedEx), a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) and the world's largest express transportation company, announced the beginning of electric vehicle (EV) trials in the UAE with one-ton electric trucks combining low-energy consumption and high performance.

Across the broader Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa region, FedEx has deployed electric vehicles in a number of countries, with the region's largest EV fleet in China. FedEx has also introduced EV trials in India, Thailand, and South Africa to help advance emissions reduction goals.

The all-electric delivery vehicles will be used for parcel pick-up and delivery across strategic locations in the UAE. The six-month trial represents the debut of zero-tailpipe emissions vehicles for FedEx in the Middle East and North Africa region and will allow for evaluation of the vehicles' operational effectiveness on typical routes while carrying a full load of packages.

Taarek Hinedi, vice president of FedEx Express Middle East and Africa operations, explains, "Our efforts to operate more sustainably apply to all areas throughout our network and we are continuously innovating to reduce the environmental impact from daily operations. This first EV trial in the Middle East and North Africa region is a step towards shaping the future of delivery. It requires identifying the right technology



to ensure the successful integration of electric vehicles into the FedEx Express fleet, and ultimately enhancing how we support our business, customers, and team members."

The trial is part of the efforts to achieve carbon-neutral operations globally by 2040. Electrifying the entire FedEx Express pick-up and delivery fleet is a core element towards this target. By 2025, FedEx has a goal that 50% of FedEx Express global pick-up and delivery vehicle purchases will be electric, rising to 100% by 2030.

The company's EV trials are also in line with the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative, which lays the foundation of environmental sustainability and climate action as it prepares to host the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP28.

Singapore Airlines awards WFS domestic trucking contract to connect 18 UK airports

SINGAPORE/LONDON: Singapore Airlines has extended its cargo partnership with Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) in the United Kingdom with a new contract for domestic trucking services connecting 18 regional offline airports.

WFS has provided cargo handling for the airline in the UK since 2015 in support of its passenger and freight services from London Heathrow and Manchester airports, including trucking services between the two airports as well as offline handling across all of WFS' other UK stations.

WFS now handles over 45,000 tons per annum for Singapore Airlines, which currently operates 30 flights a week ex Heathrow and seven weekly services from Manchester using a combination of Airbus A350 and A380 and Boeing 777 and 747F aircraft.

With the awarding of the new domestic trucking contract, Singapore Airlines will



now access WFS' 600 road transport services per week serving 18 other UK regional airports. WFS services every airport with overnight services 5-7 days a week.

"WFS is delighted to be extending its partnership with Singapore Airlines in the UK to include the airline's regional transport requirements. The airline is already a major customer of our UK operations and this new contract will enable us to support Singapore Airlines' continued growth in the UK market by giving its customers across the country fast and seamless access to its wide choice of passenger and freighter flights," said Jennifer Smith, WFS' UK Commercial Director – Cargo & Ground Handling.

WFS has recently invested to expand its UK transport fleet to 28 tractor units and 31 trailers to support the 50,000 tons its moves annually by road in the UK. The comprehensive fleet includes Q7 curtain-sided and Q6 refrigerated units as well as and roller bed temperature-controlled trailers with state-of-the-art 'Carrier Vector 1950' temperature management units.

Middle East Spotlight

Dubai is Leading Regional City on Urban Mobility Readiness Index

The Index is a ranking of 60 cities that measures elements such as infrastructure, innovation and social impact across 57 key performance indicators.

UAE Strengths



Region Highlights



DUBAI, UAE: Dubai ranks number one in the Middle East and Africa in terms of urban mobility readiness, according to the newest edition of an annual global study of 60 cities by the Oliver Wyman Forum & the University of California, Berkeley Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS).

Findings of the Index show that efficient and equitable mobility networks are key engines of economic vitality and environmental sustainability. Other measures in the overall Index include electric vehicle (EV) charging station network investment and incentives, the number of car-

Dubai is leading regional city on Urban Mobility Readiness Index

free zones, autonomous vehicle adoption, and public transport ridership and affordability.

Dubai sits at #30 on the 60-city Index, moving up from #32 in 2021. Each city is given a rating out of 100 based on a range of KPIs: at a ranking of 58%, Dubai surpasses the global average of 54%, while the Middle East average is 47%.

The report noted that preference for cars across the Middle East contributes to the region's low score for utilization of non-motorized transit, however a generally high penetration of shared mobility services, such as car-sharing, helps to lower congestion levels. Both Dubai and Abu Dhabi were jointly ranked 6th globally for shared mobility penetration.

The 2022 report highlights that Dubai is institutionally friendly to new paradigms in mobility; is a key aviation hub; and has invested in scooter-sharing pilots. It also points out that the city is developing a leading public transport package, with a mature multimodal app – the system includes the city-wide metro, which is one of the largest automated metro systems in the world. However, geographical spread and summer temperatures remain a challenge across the region.

Although the UAE's capital, Abu Dhabi, dropped one place from #36 in 2021 to #37 in 2022, the city was ranked #1 globally for traffic fluidity (in terms of how well the municipal government's mobility network enables this) and #2 for public transport affordability.

"We've already seen so much change in the past few decades – the UAE is building walkable neighbourhoods and has managed to keep traffic flowing and people moving in the face of incredible growth. The population of Dubai was 850,000 in 2000; today it is about 3.5 million and by 2040 it is projected to be 5.8 million," said André Martins, Partner and India, Middle East and Africa Head of Transport Services and Operations.

"Concurrently, there has been an influx of tourists as the country continues to improve its aviation and tourism infrastructure. Such an influx means flexibility and forward planning is built into how the UAE operates – this will serve the country well as the face of mobility continues to change," he added.

Regionally, Jeddah and Riyadh were among the five most improved cities on the 2022 ranking: Riyadh moving from #54 in 2021 to #49 in 2022, and Jeddah from #58 to #51.

Globe Air Cargo Japan premieres with Air Premia's Japanese launch

PARIS/TOKYO: On 23 December 2022, Air Premia left Japan for Korea with typical Japanese export cargo load of automotive parts, semi-conductor parts, and general consumer goods. The Korean airline plans to run a scheduled service linking Narita (NRT) with Incheon (ICN), and from there, to Singapore (SIN), Saigon (SGN), and Los Angeles (LAX), respectively.

ECS Group subsidiaries in Korea and the US represent Air Premia. In Japan, newly founded Globe Air Cargo Japan will provide comprehensive GSSA support, ensuring optimum revenues and load factors on every Air Premia flight.

Globe Air Cargo Japan has been established to build and strengthen business relations in East Asia, as well as provide existing ECS Group airline customers with a known local Japanese presence. Founded on 01 August 2022, the team headed by Managing Director, Dmitry Vorontsov, boasts a long and varied air cargo background with quality airlines.

"With our established team of highly experienced in sales

professionals and existing forwarder relationships across the country, Globe Air Cargo Japan offers local air cargo expertise within a truly global ECS Group network, and one that goes above and beyond any standard GSSA portfolio," said Vorontsov. "We look forward to contributing to Air Premia's success in Japan, and carving out a strong market presence for ECS Group, too."

Adrien Thominet, Executive Chairman of ECS Group, commented: "ECS Group has placed a key focus on expanding its presence in Asia these past 12 months, and growing to support its international customers. Together with Air Premia, ECS Group is fulfilling its pledge to offer the strongest Asian network with unlimited connections. I am delighted that we can now provide GSSA services in one of the world's most significant economies, and know that with Globe Air Cargo Japan, our Japanese and international customers will be more than well-attended to."

Globe Air Cargo Japan is located off-airport, in downtown Tokyo, in Shinbashi, Minato-ku, 70 km away from Japan's main cargo airport, Narita (NRT). Minato district was selected as the GSSA location, since many large global and local Japanese forwarders are based there.



Air France KLM Martinair Cargo teams up with Oceanographic Institute of Monaco to move 46 African spurred tortoises to Senegal

PARIS, FRANCE: Air France KLM Martinair Cargo (AFKLMP Cargo) has teamed up with the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco to successfully transport 46 juvenile tortoises to Le Village des Tortues in Noflaye, Senegal, as part of a population reinforcement project.

The transfer is the first phase of a three-year program. The transportation of the tortoises to Senegal was enabled by the specialist services of AFKLMP Cargo which facilitated the tortoises' journey from Monaco to Dakar via its hub at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport.

The program includes management of the tortoises in quarantine within the Centre for the Protection of Turtles in Senegal-Village des Tortues, their introduction into the Koyli Alpha Nature Reserve in the northwest of the country, and their monitoring for a two-year period. Since 2012, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco has been home to several African spurred tortoises *Centrochelys sulcata*, the third largest land tortoise in the world.

The 46 herbivorous reptiles, from a breeding center in Mali, were entrusted to Robert Calcagno, director-general of the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, in order to educate visitors about the need to protect this endangered species.

"Protecting animal species, both on land and at sea, and making them known to the general public is a major challenge for the future. By housing these spurred tortoises, now an endangered species, we have allowed them to reproduce while raising awareness among visitors of the need to protect them. The logical outcome was to work to boost the local wild populations," Calcagno said.

A "QUARANTINE" PHASE

Six crates were specially designed to transport the 46 juvenile tortoises from the AFKLMP Cargo hub in Paris to Dakar on 12 December.

Mathieu Fleisch, Vice President Product & Verticals for AFKLMP Cargo, said, "Air France KLM Martinair Cargo is very sensitive to the protection of the environment and the preservation of endangered species. We were therefore delighted to join the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco in transferring the 46 African spurred tortoises to Senegal. We were proud to make our extensive network and our recognized expertise in the transport of live animals available for this operation."

The tortoises have been placed in an observation enclosure for six months, located in Le Village des Tortues in Noflaye, a conservation center housed in the heart of a special botanical reserve.

At the end of the quarantine phase, the juveniles will be



transferred to a fenced-off part of the reserve for one year so that they can acclimatize to living conditions in the wild.

They will then be released in the reserve managed by the association, in accordance with the recommendations and directives of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) within the framework of wildlife reintroduction operations.

The tortoises will be monitored regularly by trained staff, who will analyze their growth and adaptation to the reserve. During this monitoring period, several education and awareness-raising campaigns will also be undertaken to involve local communities in the conservation project.

"As with all our projects, beyond the biological objectives, we seek to raise public awareness of the causes we defend. Here, children from local communities will be trained and involved in the project," comments Olivier Brunel, project manager for the operation.

AFKLMP Cargo expressed hope the endangered tortoises will thrive in their new environment.

FAI now accepts cryptocurrency payments in response to demand

NUREMBERG, GERMANY: FAI Aviation Group, one of the world's leading global providers of mission-critical aviation services, says it now accepts major cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin and Ether as an additional method of payment across all its global services, effective immediately.

FAI expressed hope its decision will widen its customer base as well as help existing customers by offering greater choice when paying for their aviation services. Cryptocurrency has progressively gained popularity as a legitimate form of payment in business aviation, affording a secure way to make transactions without sharing sensitive financial information, thus, more businesses have accepted the digital currency.



Siegfried Axtmann, Chairman and Founder, FAI Aviation Group, said: "FAI is a forward-thinking business and following requests from clients and following our own research, we decided to accept cryptocurrency as an additional payment option. Cryptocurrency offers a fast, secure and efficient alternative which is not limited to the hours when the banks are open. We anticipate our customers will appreciate the choice and that it will help give our business a competitive edge."

This latest news comes as FAI Aviation Group anticipates record sales across the business for 2022, with consolidated group revenues of more than €120m. The Group expects to see a more moderate growth forecast at 8-10% per annum over the next five years.

FAI Aviation Group operates Germany's largest fleet of Bombardier business jets. In 2021, its revenues were close to EUR 100 million with a fleet utilization of ca. 12,000 hours of airtime. In the same year, it was awarded the Pandemic Response Special Award in recognition of its response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Ismail Durmaz
Global GSA Group CEO

AMSTERDAM: As a household name in the industry, Global GSA Group has never been so active. With a new office in Greece and having acquired three companies in Italy this year, the GSA is demonstrating how its extreme flexibility, extensive local expertise and highly engaged workforce are driving its success.

True to the company's motto "Making the impossible possible!", the Global GSA Group's team distinguishes itself not only by its dedication and passion but also by its access to the right network locally.

"We are currently present worldwide with a

'It's Global or nothing in the world of GSAs'

team of energetic, reliable and experienced professionals with the highest standard of expertise, which we have been perfecting since our beginnings. This constitutes a real strength and a substantial asset to our partner airlines' business," said Ismail Durmaz, Chief Executive Officer of Global GSA Group.

Founded in 1995, Global GSA Group was able to adapt to the industry's constant evolutions, including digital transformation to become a forerunner in the world of GSAs. This agility enabled it to successfully support its clients in particularly difficult periods such as the Covid pandemic and beyond. By exceeding clients' expectations during those troubled times, Global GSA Group proved it has what it takes to tackle any challenging situation.

Aytekin Saray, Chief Commercial Officer of Global GSA Group, explains: "Although the last few years have been a testing time for airlines, we proved that we were a reliable partner. Thanks to our strong local ties, we managed to supply them with regular market information, enabling them to always be a step ahead and to adapt their strategy accordingly."

Today, Global GSA Group boasts 74 offices in 46 countries, represents 62 airlines and ranks in the top 5 GSAs worldwide. Always seeking to conquer new territories, it is planning to further expand its presence worldwide, with a focus on the South America and Southeast Asia regions.

As Global GSA Group continues its rising curve in an increasingly tense climate, 2023 clearly promises to be the year it unleashes the true lion inside it, reinforcing its unique position on the market as the ideal committed partner with solid solutions.



Philip Luz
NEO OBC Manager

FRANKFURT, GERMANY: The On-board Courier (OBC) division of Frankfurt-based NEO Air Group has successfully shipped an urgent and valuable piece of broadcast equipment to Doha within just 19 hours of an initial enquiry despite severe restrictions on entry to Qatar due to the ongoing World Cup competition.

Elite Global Logistics GmbH of Frankfurt made the initial enquiry to NEO OBC at 09.32, for the critically urgent shipment from its customer in Berlin underscoring the need that it arrive at the football

NEO OBC scores fast delivery despite Qatar's strict regulations due to World Cup

stadium in Doha early the following morning.

"The smallest and simplest shipments often create the most problems, and this assignment was a perfect example. But we were determined to succeed for Elite and its customer, by overcoming the very tight deadlines and challenging procedures. We're very glad it all went to plan, and that we have played a part in bringing the competition to fans who are watching from home," Philip Luz, NEO OBC Manager, noted.

What would normally have been a straightforward accompanied express shipment raised immediate challenges, due to the current Qatari restrictions on all visitors, who must hold a Hayya Card. The issue of the card takes 3-5 days, and only after confirmation of the visitor's flight and hotel accommodation; these in turn are only currently permitted for visitors holding valid tickets to a World Cup football game!

Not to be defeated, NEO OBC sprang into action, successfully locating a courier from its usual panel who already held the necessary paperwork. It also devised a route via Frankfurt, so it could take advantage of a direct flight that would be the only way of achieving arrival within the tight deadline.

By 12.43 the booking was confirmed to Elite, and the shipment – measuring just 60cm x 30cm x 20cm and weighing 12 kilos - was then dispatched by road from Berlin to Frankfurt. It was handed over at 19.13, departed Frankfurt at 2020 as scheduled, and arrived in Doha at 0420 the next morning – just 19 hours after the first call from Elite. It was then handed over to the consignee at 0445, and was immediately on its way to the stadium.

NEO OBC is a member of the NEO Air Group GmbH, whose principal activity is global air cargo charter for the commercial, oil and gas and humanitarian aid sectors.



"For us, sustainability is a very special priority. We have set ourselves the ambitious goal of halving our CO2 emissions per kilo gram when flying by 2030. Efficient flying and expanding the use of sustainable fuels are the focus," explains von Boxberg. "But to really make a difference, we need to think holistically about the issue and also take smaller measures such as loading equipment optimization and recycling seriously. We are convinced - every contribution counts."

Dorothea von Boxberg

Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Lufthansa Cargo.

FRANKFURT, GERMANY: The global logistics market continues to experience turbulent times but Lufthansa Cargo believes a normalizing market is in sight in 2023 with digitalization and sustainability as leading trends. The cargo airline said the peak phases of the Covid pandemic clearly demonstrated the importance of air freight in logistics, an indispensable component of global supply chains. The temporary shutdown of many passenger aircraft fleets led to a considerable loss of cargo space, as around half of the world's air freight tonnage is carried as supplementary cargo. Although there will continue to be strained supply chains, partly due to global dynamics, Lufthansa Cargo nevertheless expects increasing freight capacities to help ease the situation in the coming year. Above all, the continuous increase in passenger flights and the outlook for a reopening Asian market allow us to look to the future with confidence.

"Recent years have shown that global trade is resilient and there continue to be growth markets. Air freight has always been dynamic and volatile. Flexibility is and will continue to be in demand in the future," said Dorothea von Boxberg, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Lufthansa Cargo.

The year 2023 will not require a fundamental change in strategy, but will continue to drive measures already underway and maintain a forward-looking willingness to learn, von Boxberg added.

Digitization and AI as a competitive factor

Across all industries, the pandemic years have led to digitalization being driven forward strongly in many areas. According to Lufthansa Cargo, this will continue in the airfreight sector, and at an accelerated pace. Networking through the intelligent use of data and the increasing automation of processes will become

Lufthansa Cargo: Normalizing market in sight in 2023 with flying data and sustainable progress as leading trends



performance and competitive factors for the industry.

"Even before the pandemic, topics like digitalization and AI were important. In air freight, there are still many opportunities to use data to add value and interact with partners in real time. The industry is characterized by the fact that we collaborate very strongly across the board. One example of this is the nationwide research project 'Digitales Testfeld Air Cargo' of the German Federal Ministry of Transport (BMVI), which is coordinated by the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics (IML). We are pleased to be working as a project partner to help position Germany as an air cargo location for international competition in the future," von Boxberg noted.

Sustainability still a major issue

The airline said the future of air freight logistics will continue to be driven to a large extent by the issue of sustainability.

Today, the industry is already making a diverse contribution to climate protection. In addition to CO2neutrality on the ground, for example through electrification or solar installations, Lufthansa Cargo believes that it will be indispensable to further advance the sustainability of the aircraft as a means of transport, for example through fleet modernization.

However, it is also important that regulations on quotas of sustainable fuels (Sustainable Aviation Fuels) are designed to ensure fair competitive conditions.

"For us, sustainability is a very special priority. We have set ourselves the ambitious goal of halving our CO2 emissions per kilogram when flying by 2030. Efficient flying and expanding the use of sustainable fuels are the focus," explains von Boxberg. "But to really make a difference, we need to think holistically about the issue and also take smaller measures such as loading equipment optimization and recycling seriously. We are convinced - every contribution counts."



Cargolux and DB Schenker connected via API for quotes and booking

LUXEMBOURG: Cargolux and DB Schenker announced they have launched an API providing a direct interface between their systems to generate tailored and immediate bookable quotes.

Cargolux's Austria, Spain and Portugal offices were selected to participate in this innovative approach in collaboration with long-standing customer DB Schenker.

The API interface allows DB Schenker to directly connect its operating system to Cargolux's system to receive quotes and book their freight onboard a Cargolux flight. The interface offers dynamic pricing options based on specific requirements such as weight, routing, and product type.

"The implementation of API offers customers more choice and flexibility when booking their cargo with us. Launching this venture in collaboration with a key customer such as DB Schenker highlights both companies' wish to pursue digitalization and continue looking for innovative solutions in the industry," said



Domenico Ceci, Executive Vice-President Sales & Marketing.

"The new connectivity will further transform our joint process into the latest technology and is clearly a remarkable milestone of the professional collaboration. This innovation brings benefit to all stakes of our transportation chain through digital proposition and exchange – Cargolux as preferred partner, our global customer base and the entire global Air Freight network of DB Schenker. We are very excited to establish it now globally, says Stefan Spriestersbach, Head of Production Systems, DB Schenker Global Air Freight.

Cargolux is in the midst of an extensive sales transformation project and initiatives such as the API highlight the airline's commitment to innovation and service excellence. Cargolux is committed to implementing flexible and lean processes to enhance customer experience and contribute to digitalization along the supply chain. By increasing its "speed to market" capabilities, the airline complements its service offering while offering the quality service customers have come to expect.

IATA: Air cargo demand softens in November

Geneva, Switzerland: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) says data for November 2022 global air cargo markets showed demand softening as economic headwinds persist.

IATA said global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs*), fell 13.7% compared to November 2021 (-14.2% for international operations). Capacity (measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers, ACTK) was 1.9% below November 2021, it added.

This was the second year-on-year contraction following the first last month (in October) since April 2022. International cargo capacity decreased 0.1% compared to November 2021. Compared to pre-COVID-19 levels (November 2019), there was a smaller contraction in overall demand (-10.1%), while capacity was down 8.8%.

Several factors in the operating environment should be noted:

- Global new export orders, a leading indicator of cargo demand, were stable in October. For major economies, new export orders are shrinking except in Germany, the US, and South Korea, where they grew.
- Global goods trade expanded by 3.3% in October. Given the softening in air cargo demand, this suggests that maritime cargo was the primary beneficiary.
- The US dollar has appreciated sharply, adding cost pressure as many costs are denominated in US dollars. This includes jet fuel, which is already at elevated levels.
- The Consumer Price Index for G7 countries decreased from



November 2022 (% year-on-year)	World share ¹	CTK	ACTK	CLF (% -pt) ²	CLF (level) ³
Total Market	100.0%	-13.7%	-1.9%	-6.7%	49.1%
Africa	1.9%	-6.3%	-11.4%	2.5%	45.8%
Asia Pacific	32.6%	-18.6%	-4.5%	-9.5%	54.5%
Europe	22.8%	-16.5%	-6.6%	-8.8%	56.9%
Latin America	2.2%	2.8%	19.9%	-6.4%	38.2%
Middle East	13.4%	-14.7%	2.1%	-9.3%	47.5%
North America	27.2%	-6.6%	0.3%	-3.1%	41.9%

7.8% in October to 7.4% in November, the largest month-on-month decline in 2022. Inflation in producer (input) prices reduced to 12.7% in November, its lowest level so far in 2022.

"Air cargo performance softened in November, the traditional peak season. Resilience in the face of economic uncertainties is demonstrated with demand being relatively stable on a month-to-month basis. But market signals are mixed. November presented several indicators with upside potential: oil prices stabilized, inflation slowed and there was a slight expansion in goods traded globally. But shrinking export orders globally and China's rising COVID cases are cause for careful monitoring," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.



BGI Genomics appoints AJEX as logistics and supply chain provider for the Middle East

thanks to our expertise and infrastructure."

"Known for its work on the Human Genome Project and its development of a real-time fluorescent RT-PCR kit for COVID-19, our appointment by BGI Genomics demonstrates that we are best placed to support the growing pharma and life-sciences industry in the region," Al Salhi added.

Alwyn Li, Head of BGI Genomics MENA logistics team, commented, "With over 20 years of experience helping our customers achieve their research goals by delivering rapid, high-quality results using a broad array of cost-effective, cutting-edge technologies, it was paramount that we appoint a logistics partner who shares our values. AJEX ticked all those boxes and more with its provision of live-monitored and temperature-controlled import and export full-mile transport services supported by packaging, tracking, and warehousing. With their state-of-the-art support, we look forward to expanding our life-sciences services throughout the Middle East region."

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: AJEX Logistics Services (AJEX), the Middle East specialist in express distribution and shipping solutions, has been appointed by the world's leading integrated solutions provider of precision medicine, BGI Genomics, to provide it with all necessary transport and logistics solutions within the Middle East region.

BGI Genomics, a world leading biotech company, which provides academic institutions, pharmaceutical companies, healthcare providers and other organizations with integrated genomic sequencing and proteomic services and solutions, will be supported by AJEX in the Middle East through the provision of domestic and international express road and airfreight services, including specialized cold-chain services for life-sciences and dry-temperature controlled warehousing in Dammam, Jeddah, and Riyadh, AJEX explained.

Thanks to the new partnership, BGI Genomics will be best placed to support human, plant and animal research, drug discovery and development and agriculture and biodiversity preservation and sustainability through its services across the Middle East at a time when regional governments are targeting the expansion of local research and development efforts.

Speaking on the announcement, Fahad Al Salhi, Chief Solutions Officer at AJEX said, "Following stringent testing of our services by BGI Genomics, AJEX has proven that it is the go-to company for specialized logistics services within the Middle East region

Gymshark selects DSV as global logistics and transport partner

SWADLINCOTE, UK: British fitness community and apparel brand, Gymshark, has chosen DSV as its global logistics and transport partner, with DSV agreeing to provide international multimodal transport solutions for Gymshark's fitness wear, apparel and accessories to support its ambitious global growth strategy.

Established in the UK in 2012, Gymshark has seen rapid growth in recent years, with sales of around

£480m in its most recent financial year in over 180 countries. In order to meet growing international sales, complex supply chain requirements and customer expectations, Gymshark has partnered with DSV.

This strategic partnership will provide consolidation of Gymshark's shipments under one forwarder from manufacturers in nine origins to distribution centres across the UK, Belgium, Australia, Canada and the USA.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Gymshark and entrusted with supporting it in the next phase of

its exciting growth story. It became apparent early on that Gymshark and DSV shared several synergies and were aligned in drawing on our combined expertise to achieve the best possible results," said Morten Landry, Managing Director, Air & Sea, DSV UK.

"As Gymshark's business grows, its supply chain



requirements have become increasingly complex, placing additional emphasis on the need for robust logistics services. DSV's operational expertise, global capabilities, infrastructure and IT solutions will provide reliability and visibility across Gymshark's entire supply chain. I hope this marks the start of a long-standing partnership," he added.

Zac Singh, Sourcing Director for Gymshark, explains: "Whenever we are looking for any partner, it's always so important that they 'get us', our brand and our values. When it came to logistics, DSV not only have the credentials, but from the moment we met it was clear they understood how we operate as a brand and were completely on the same page. We're looking forward to an excellent working partnership with them as our global logistics and transport supplier."

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AD Ports Group signs 2 agreements with Kyrgyz Republic to promote trade with Central Asia

Abu Dhabi, UAE: AD Ports Group (ADX: ADPORTS), the leading facilitator of global trade, logistics, and industry, has signed two major agreements with the Government of Kyrgyzstan to promote trade and strengthen economic ties in Central Asia.

Under the first agreement, the Ministry of Economy and Commerce has entered negotiations with AD Ports Group to secure more than 300,000 square metres of land within the Khalifa Economic Zone Abu Dhabi (KEZAD) to develop and operate a logistics hub and customs area. Based within KEZAD's Free Zone, the project will facilitate the import and export of cargo to and from the Kyrgyz Republic.

Under the second agreement, Maqta Gateway will initiate a strategy for the Ministry of Finance for developing a customs and border management solution, infrastructure, and national single window, among other digital services, for deployment in Kyrgyzstan.

Maqta Gateway has demonstrated compelling expertise in this area, having developed and operated the Advanced Trade Platform (ATLP), the innovative single-window solution designed to unify trade and logistics services across Abu Dhabi, including sea, land, air, industrial and free zones.

The agreements were built upon AD Ports Group's ongoing strategy to expand its presence in Central Asia. In 2020, Kyrgyzstan exported US\$70.9 million to the United Arab Emirates, with key exports including gold, aircraft parts, and refined petroleum, while the UAE recorded US\$174M in trade to Kyrgyzstan.



"Today is a historic day. The Kyrgyz Republic, which is one of the remotest landlocked countries, gets access to the sea. This is a big leap forward. The signed agreements will not only give a great impetus to the development of bilateral Kyrgyz-Emirati relations, but will also help our country make a powerful economic breakthrough," said Akylbek Zhaparov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Kyrgyzstan.

Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, Managing Director and Group CEO, AD Ports Group, described the agreements as "an opportunity to advance relations between our two nations," and noted, "Under the guidance of our wise leadership, AD Ports Group continues to expand its presence around the world, and we see Central Asia as a vital market for growth and development. We thank the Government of Kyrgyzstan for the trust they have placed in us, and we look forward to working with them to promote modernisation, digitalisation and connectivity."

Abdullah Al Hameli, CEO of Economic Cities & Free Zones, AD Ports Group, said the agreements "will be the beginning of a new chapter in UAE-Kyrgyzstan relations, with the plan for a logistics hub and customs area providing a focal point for economic development and trade between our nations."

Dr. Noura Al Dhaheri, CEO - Digital Cluster, AD Ports Group and CEO - Maqta Gateway, said: "We are honoured that the Government of Kyrgyzstan has engaged Maqta Gateway for the task of developing a strategy for a full customs and border management solution, as well as a national single window to integrate trade and logistics services."

Lödige Industries finalizes automated Cold-Chain Pallet-Cargo System for AAT COOLPORT at Hong Kong International Airport

HONG KONG/WARBURG: Lödige Industries, the world's leading provider of air cargo terminal solutions, says it has completed an automated Cold Chain Pallet-Cargo System at Hong Kong International Airport.

Via its Hong Kong office, the German company, planned, manufactured and implemented the advanced system for AAT COOLPORT, which is the first on-airport cold chain facility in Hong Kong providing a complete temperature-controlled environment, operated by Asia Airfreight Terminal (AAT).

Supported by the tailor-made pallet moving solution, the operator can maintain strictly regulated cold chains seamlessly and respond to the increasing global demand for temperature-sensitive air transports.

The customised and automated material handling system

is designed for fast and safe transport of temperature-sensitive goods inside the cold chain facility. Modern and climate-resistant sensors in combination with an enhanced maintenance and control system ensure an efficient and safe flow of fragile goods.

Lödige Industries was awarded the contract for the project because it met both the high-quality requirements for stringent cold chain regulations and was able to achieve short turnaround timelines. The market for temperature-sensitive goods, like pharmaceuticals, and perishables, is currently the strongest growing market in air freight worldwide. Given the rapid planning and

implementation of the automated ULD handling system, AAT is able to meet the rapidly growing demand of its customers for temperature-sensitive air cargo as well as strict cold chain regulations.

Nicholas Trippetree, Managing Director, APAC at Lödige Industries, emphasizes the importance of innovation in the air cargo industry: "We look back on a long partnership with Asia Airfreight Terminal at Hong Kong International Airport, where we continue to service the system which was handed over in 2006 and modernised in 2018. We are proud that one of the largest airfreight companies at the airport, chooses to support its customers with our best-in-class solutions for moving pallets and ULDs."



The Airfreight solutions specialist

The company specializes in crafting tailor-made expert solutions designed to meet the demands of clients, backed by dedicated customer service to provide bespoke premium airfreight and charter services.

Prime Aviation may be relatively young in the sturdy global airfreight and logistics industry but it takes pride in having the knowledge and capabilities to provide airfreight and logistics solutions specific to what customers need.

The company does this through an integrated system that utilizes logistics and supply chain technology coupled with decades of experience that are agile and responsive to the demands of the market.

It specializes in crafting tailor-made expert solutions designed to meet the demands of clients, backed by dedicated customer service to provide bespoke premium airfreight and charter services.

These practices make Prime Aviation the preferred reliable and cost effective choice for clients in the region.

Global Network

Founded in Dubai, the global business gateway, Prime Aviation's network of operations span across the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, China and the CIS countries. It benefits from a healthy network that has been established on trust and integrity

Founded in Dubai, the global business gateway, Prime Aviation's network of operations span across the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, China and the CIS countries. It benefits from a healthy network that has been established on trust and integrity across many airlines, airports, handling companies and freight forwarders.



Prime Aviation MD Syed Mohamed Wazeer has a keen vision to create value driven growth by providing services that extend beyond airfreight logistics.

across many airlines, airports, handling companies and freight forwarders.

Prime Aviation MD Syed Mohamed Wazeer has a keen vision to create value driven growth by providing services that extend beyond airfreight logistics. As digital fulfillment

platforms such as end-to-end supply chain visibility, integrated distributed order management solutions and personalized analytics take center stage in today's logistics, Prime Aviation's goals become more transparent.

Its vision is clear—to create an environment for manufacturers and retailers that effectively position and manage their businesses by sharing information, hence, propelling a refreshing form of efficiency into the air cargo transport industry.



Prime Aviation prioritizes quality of service over every other factor which is reflected in the satisfaction of their clients. With the availability of e-services that allow tracking, tracing and online bookings customers relish in the comfort of fulfillment with transparent visibility of their cargo.

This becomes particularly relevant when we observe the consumer behavioral dynamics rapidly evolving to suit a digitalized form of commerce. Adoption of e-commerce has led to a revolution in consumer trends especially during the pandemic allowing Prime aviation to reflect thoroughly on the demands of their clients as they face an overwhelming demand, which at times may be crippling due to lack of supply.

Providing an efficient and tailored supply chain can mitigate the numerous risks clients face allowing for better fulfillment and increased profitability.

Quality Service

Prime Aviation prioritizes quality of service over every other factor which is reflected in the satisfaction of their clients. With the availability of e-services that allow tracking, tracing and online bookings customers relish in the comfort of fulfillment with transparent visibility of their cargo.

It becomes quite evident that the organization does not intend to

leap forward into an abyss but rather takes calculated steps forward. Its team continues to explore activities and projects that may introduce new streams of revenue, increase profitability or add value to the organization.

The pandemic proved to be a fruitful time to increase the pace on development within the organization and investments were poured into hiring skilled manpower, expanding the fleet of airplanes and establishing cross border partnerships that allowed for new routes to be established fulfilling the requirements of the clients.

It is imperative now for the organization to maintain the existing momentum and capitalize on the existing resources to maximize efficiency and create a profitable path for the future.



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India aims to become 25th top country in World Logistics Performance Index by 2030

The country's flagship highways development initiative, the Bharatmala, plans to create 50 national economic corridors, connect 550 districts, generate 22 million jobs, both direct and indirect, improve logistics performance index, and strengthen border roads and international connectivity.

By R. Chandrakanth

In December 2022, the World Bank made an upward revision of India's GDP growth forecast to 6.9 percent for 2022-23 (April 2022-March 2023) on the premise that the Indian economy was showing higher resilience to global shocks and better-than-expected second quarter numbers.

Only two months earlier, in October, it had cut India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5 percent from 7.5 percent. This is the first upgrade of India's growth forecast by any international agency amid the global turmoil. However, the report projected that the Indian economy will grow at slightly lower rate of 6.6 percent in 2023-24.

The World Bank report titled 'Navigating the

India's logistics sector is estimated to account for about 14.4% of GDP. The unorganised sector amounts to over 90% of the logistics sector.

Storm', said while the deteriorating external environment will weigh on India's growth prospects, the economy is relatively well positioned to weather global spill-overs compared to most other emerging markets. India will remain one of the fastest growing major economies.

Resilient Indian Economy

"India's economy has been remarkably resilient to the deteriorating external environment, and strong macroeconomic fundamentals have placed it in good stead compared to other emerging market economies," World Bank's Country Director in India Auguste Tano Kouame has said.

The Asian Development Bank, too, in its December 2022 growth forecast, said despite the recent global headwinds, the Indian

economy is expected to grow by 7.0%, supported by a strong domestic base. With the focus of government spending shifting towards infrastructure investment, modernisation and seamless movement of logistics, simplification of labour laws, and privatisation of under-performing state-owned assets are positively impacting the economy.

Former Vice-Chairman of the Niti-Aayog (Government of India apex Think-tank) and noted economist, Arvind Panagariya, last year had said "In terms of headwinds originating abroad, the worst is probably behind us ... Overall, I still expect us to end the current fiscal year with a growth rate exceeding 7%. Next year, the 7% growth rate should sustain assuming the forthcoming Budget does not have any negative surprises."

Logistics, Key Engine to Growth

These growth prospects are good to hear. The crux of the matter lies on how India is going to handle its logistics sector presently weighed down by legacy factors. Realising that the logistics sector is a key engine to growth, the present dispensation has come out with several initiatives that will transform the logistics landscape of the country.

India's logistics sector is estimated to account for about 14.4% of GDP. The unorganised sector amounts to over 90% of the logistics sector.

LPI ranking of 44 in 2018

Work is in progress to improve the ranking of India in the World Bank's Logistics Performance from 44 in 2018 to a ranking of 25. As of 2018 when the LPI ranking was done, China stood at (26), Thailand (32), Vietnam (39) and Malaysia (41). The between years, we have seen the Covid pandemic impacting economies. While awaiting the latest ranking of LPI, the Indian government is working hard to improve the LPI, hoping to get it down to 25 in the next five years.

The government has rolled out major logistics initiatives and they include a logistics master plan; national logistics policy; national logistics law; multimodal parks; and a national workforce strategy.

Bharatmala: Flagship highways development project

The government's flagship highways development initiative is the Bharatmala Yojana (project) which aims to construct 83,677 km of highways by 2024.

The first phase of the project was approved in 2017 including construction of 24,800 km of national highways, in addition to 10,000 km of balance road

Bharatmala A garland around Bharat

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Reduced congestion in the Golden Quadrilateral Corridor between Delhi & Mumbai



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Direct connectivity between eastern Assam & Arunachal Pradesh



Chenani - Nashri Tunnel
Reduced travel distance between Jammu and Srinagar on NH1 by 29 km



Delhi-Mumbai Expressway
To reduce travel time between Delhi & Mumbai from 24 hours to 12 hours

works under the National Highways Development Programme.

As per the initial plan of the NHAI, the first phase of the Bharatmala project was to be completed towards the end of 2022. But due to the pandemic and other issues associated with cost overruns and land acquisition, the completion is now expected in 2026.

The delay has also brought in a cost escalation of 54%. As per a report by ICRA, the cost is likely to go up to 100 billion USD from 60 billion USD.

Optimized freight movement

The Bharatmala project objectives are four-fold – a) optimized efficiency of freight; b) Optimized efficiency of passenger movement; c) Development of several corridors for smooth connectivity and d) reducing the cost of logistics from 14 to 18% of GDP to global best practices of 8% by 2030.

The plan is to have 50 national corridors; connect 550 districts; generate 22 million jobs, both direct and indirect, over the project period; improve logistics performance index; and strengthen border roads and international connectivity. The project will be implemented in seven phases, with the second phase underway now.

Freight Traffic Movement Improvement

The 50 national corridors are expected to improve the freight traffic movement from 40% to 70-80%. It will also optimise the national corridor's efficiency by removing the congestion points via lane expansion and building ring roads, bypasses, elevated corridors and logistic parks. In phase 1, the plan was to enhance 9,000 km of roads in economic zones.

By connecting 550 districts, the plan is to ensure seamless movement of agri-produce and other products across the country, along with movement



of people. One of the most significant objectives of the Bharatmala scheme is to construct 3300 km of border roads and an international connectivity road of 2000km. The aim is to promote trade with multiple countries, including Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Bhutan.

Corridor Categories

Economic Corridor - As per the guidelines of the road construction project, the construction of 9000 kms of Economic Corridors will be undertaken by the central government.

Feeder Route or Inter Corridor - The total length of the roads, which fall under the Feeder Route or Inter Corridor category, is a whopping 6000kms.

National Corridor Efficiency Improvement - 5000km of roads, constructed under the scheme will fall in the category of National Corridor for the better connection between roads.

Border Roads and International Connectivity - Connecting the cities and remote areas, which are situated in the border regions, the project has kept provision for constructing 2000km roads that fall in the Border Roads or International Connectivity category.

Port Connectivity and Coastal Road - To connect the areas that are dotted along the shorelines and important ports, the central government has ordered the construction of 2000km of roads.

Green Field Expressway - The main stress will be given on the construction and development of Green Field Expressway for better management of traffic and freight.

Balance NHDP Works - Under the last segment, the project will see a construction and maintenance of about 10,000kms of new roads.

Gati-Shakti, National Master Plan

The Bharatmala project comes under the PM Gati-Shakti – a National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, essentially a digital platform to bring 16 ministries including railways and roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

The multimodal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another. It will facilitate last-mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.

Seven Engines driving Gati-Shakti

The seven engines that will be driving Gati-Shakti



include roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure. The National Master Plan for world-class modern infrastructure thus includes completing 25,000 km national highways in 2022-23; unified logistics interface platform; integration of postal and railways network; one station one product; and open-source mobility stack.

35 Multimodal Logistics Parks

The Government has decided to set up as many as 35 Multimodal Logistics Parks, at carefully chosen locations, at a total capital cost of 6 billion USD. The MMLPs have been conceptualized to enable seamless intermodal freight movement and offer multiple functionalities such as freight aggregation and distribution. Storage and warehousing solutions and value-added services such as custom clearances and IT services will also be provided to users.

The parks will enable the shift from a point-to-point to a hub-and-spoke model in logistics sector, eventually helping us bring down logistics costs by at least half and enabling more efficient movement of new-generation vehicles.

The MMLPs have 5 key functions: freight aggregation and distribution; multi-modal freight transport; integrated storage and warehousing; information technology support; and value-added services.

First Multimodal Logistics Park in Assam coming up

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, on October 20, 2020 laid the foundation stone of India's first multimodal logistics park (MMLP) at Jogighopa in Assam.

The Jogighopa park is on a 317-acre land along the Brahmaputra. It is anticipated that the first phase of the park shall be completed by 2023. The MMLP is to have all facilities like, warehouse, railway siding, cold storage, custom clearance house, yard facility, workshops, petrol pumps, truck parking, administrative building, boarding lodging, eating joints, water treatment plant, etc. India's first multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) to be constructed in Assam, a project of US\$ 407 million.

This project aims to provide around 2 million direct and indirect employment to the youth in the North East. This MMLP aims to reduce trade cost by 10% and have cargo capacity of 13 million metric tonnes. MMLPs are happening across the country.

The development of any nation depends on the transportation networks and the ways in which they are being maintained. The same holds true for the development of a huge and populous nation like India. For connecting the areas and maintaining smooth flow of traffic, the construction of new and developed roads are a must and the Bharatmala project is on the right track.

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MEBAA SHOW 2022

redefines the future of business aviation

Middle East & North Africa Business Aviation Association (MEBAA) Show, held from 6-8 December 2022 at DWC Airshow Site, welcomed attendees from 95 countries.

By Gemma Q. Casas

DUBAI, UAE: The three-day MEBAA Show 2022 concluded last month with dynamic exhibitions, discussions and exchange of information on aviation, combined with a series of key deals and announcements, all set to drive the business aviation industry forward.

Held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, the event, the Middle East & North Africa Business Aviation Association (MEBAA) Show, held from 6-8 December 2022 at DWC Airshow Site, welcomed attendees from 95 countries.

A number of students from Westford University College, College of Engineering at Abu Dhabi University, Higher Colleges of Technology, Amity University Dubai, GEMS Education and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, were also invited at the MEBAA Show aimed at helping inspire the next generation to join the industry.

"This has been a remarkable MEBAA show and it has been incredible to see industry leaders come together to drive real change for the future of business aviation. At MEBAA, we also want to empower the future leaders, and it was fantastic to welcome students who have an interest in

our sector and provide them with the platform to network with industry players and learn more about the vast opportunities available to them," said Ali Ahmed Alnaqbi, Founding and Executive Chairman of MEBAA - the Middle East & North Africa Business Aviation Association.

"The business aviation industry has grown significantly in the last couple of years, not only in the Middle East region where mega events such as Dubai Expo 2020 and the Qatar World Cup have led to increased demand, but also in many key international markets. Throughout the three days, we have seen an industry transition with significant levels of innovation, technological advancement and digital transformations right across the show, along with many key deals and new announcements, all showing that this sector growth is set to continue well into the future," Alnaqbi added.

Innovation and Positive Discussions

Tim Hawes, Managing Director of Tarsus Group, noted, "The ninth edition of the MEBAA Show has seen a lot of innovation and positive discussion, and we look forward to seeing the impact that the show has made in the coming months and years. A key highlight for this year was the launch of the BizAv Talks conference. It was

brilliant to hear industry leaders and specialists from across the globe share their insights on some of the key themes shaping the industry, including sustainability, future aviation and emerging markets, and we were proud to see all audiences really engage with these discussions."

The brand-new BizAv Talks conference featured sessions from over 45 industry leaders throughout the show, with day three focusing on the daily theme of 'Accelerating private aviation with collaboration'. Sessions highlighted the importance of collaboration within the business aviation ecosystem to help open up new opportunities, streamline services and tackle issues facing the sector.

A huge number of exhibitors – including many returning, along with new industry leaders – connected with international visitors for insightful discussions while showcasing the latest innovation, technology, aircraft and solutions.

Carlos Brana, Executive Vice President, Civil Aircraft at Dassault Aviation, also commented: "Dassault Aviation presented our popular Falcon 8X very long range trijet at this year's MEBA Show and exhibition, where it drew a lot of interest from the many prospective buyers and operators who also visited our chalet. Middle East owners appreciate the qualities of the Falcons and we were able to discuss face to face with guests our two brand-new Falcon 6X and 10X programs. Just as importantly, MEBA Show was an opportunity to look ahead and present our expanding regional product support network, which will include the company's ExecuJet MRO Services unit at Dubai World Central to serve business jet operators in the Gulf region, opening in early 2023. We are delighted to support such a dynamic regional business aviation industry, with MEBA Show at its heart."

Meanwhile, Ammar 'Jay' Alhussari, Founder and CEO of Prime Trip Support, said: "The MEBA show has been a very successful show for Prime, we have been extremely busy meeting clients, partners, and forging alliances. Our team has been full throttle since day one and there are no signs of it slowing down! We are very pleased with the level of interest we have garnered here at the MEBA show and are impressed with the excellent organization."



The brand-new BizAv Talks conference featured sessions from over 45 industry leaders throughout the show, with day three focusing on the daily theme of 'Accelerating private aviation with collaboration'. Sessions highlighted the importance of collaboration within the business aviation ecosystem to help open up new opportunities, streamline services and tackle issues facing the sector.

Major deals & announcements

Day two of the Show saw a series of key announcements and signings.

RoyalJet and Honeywell signed a letter of intent to extend the current Ka-band connectivity services, Saudia Private Aviation (SPA) signed an MoU with Redstar, and there was a press conference where VPorts announced a partnership with UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) and the Mohammed bin Rashid Aerospace Hub (MBRAH) at Dubai South to establish the world's first AAM integrator world center in Dubai.

Saudia Aerospace Engineering Industries (SAEI) also signed four agreements during the second day, with Airbus Helicopter Arabia, Alpha Star Aviation Services, Ubisense and The Helicopter Company (THC).

These followed on from a series of day one announcements, where Airbus Corporate Jets (ACJ) signed a partnership agreement with Citadel



"The MEBA Show is providing a platform for the global business aviation industry to come together to build on partnerships and form new connections that will drive the sector forward. Across the first two days, we have already seen a series of key announcements and new signings as our community takes advantage of the huge growth that's predicted for the sector. Organizations are looking at how they can incorporate new aircraft, technology and innovation into their current operations. We are proud of what the show has achieved so far," said Alnaqbi.

Completions LLC to enter the ACJ Services Centre Network, the MBRAH signed four agreements with Empire Aviation Group, Athena Security, Khaleej Aerospace Industries and Airline Support Baltic, and there was the official contract signing of the DC Aviation G-OPS joint venture for the opening of a brand new FBO at Nice Airport, among others.

Day two of the BizAv Talks conference included seven presentations and panel discussions under today's theme 'Tomorrow's Customer – Next-Generation'. With future aviation, digitalization, block chain, AI and crypto-based payments key focuses for this year's MEBA Show, sessions included a joint presentation, 'Stay ahead of the curve with cryptocurrencies', from Robert Plhak, CEO of VOO, and Gernot Winter, CEO of AVINOC. This focused on how readiness and adaptability in this quickly evolving technological landscape is crucial in today's marketplace, assessing the purchasing methods of tomorrow's customers and benefits to providing flexible payment methods.

"It's not just about cryptocurrency, it's about tokenization as a whole, and the real goal is to connect the real world – the business aviation world – with the crypto world." He continued by sharing examples of how tokenization and blockchain technology can be used within the future of the aviation industry, not just through payment, but also loyalty programs, aircraft ownership, security for airlines and airports, MRO solutions, ticketing, identity management and much more," said Gernot Winter, CEO of AVINOC.

Co-founders of Odys Aviation, James Dorris and Axel Radermacher, also presented at BizAv Talks with their session on 'Assessing early adopters of the eVTOL revolutions', which focused on how eVTOLs will provide a fast alternative to congested city travel and asses how businesses can win over

and retain high-net-worth individuals.

Continuing the theme of technology and future aviation, Alberto Carlos Pereira, CEO & Partner at Tupan Aircraft, said: "The MEBA Show gives us the unique opportunity to combine the vision of our long-range and high-speed drone cargo transportation solution with the UAE's Strategic Vision for 2071. Together we can develop and test disruptive and innovative solutions for point-to-point cargo services. I am looking forward to further highly interesting discussions that the professional environment of MEBA Show makes possible."

Sustainability has also remained a key theme throughout the ninth edition of the show – and a huge focus for the business aviation sector as a whole.

This year, MEBA Show has worked with Air bp as the carbon offsetting sponsor for the show.

"The MEBA Show is providing a platform for the global business aviation industry to come together to build on partnerships and form new connections that will drive the sector forward. Across the first two days, we have already seen a series of key announcements and new signings as our community takes advantage of the huge growth that's predicted for the sector. Organizations are looking at how they can incorporate new aircraft, technology and innovation into their current operations. We are proud of what the show has achieved so far," said Alnaqbi.



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BVL:

Innovation management in logistics service needed to improve global supply-chain

Founded in 1978 in Bremen, Germany, BVL has an international expert network of nearly 11,000 professionals from logistics and supply chain management. It has more than 40 regional groups and international chapters, including in Brazil, China, Luxembourg, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Turkey and the USA.

MUNICH, GERMANY— The importance of the logistics sector has become more apparent to the public, and its great responsibility to the stability of the global supply-chain, following the recent multi-crises that emerged from the pandemic. But innovations are still needed in this growing industry, according to a study by Bundesvereinigung Logistik e.V. (BVL).

Founded in 1978 in Bremen, Germany, BVL has an international expert network of nearly 11,000 professionals from logistics and supply chain management. It has more than 40 regional groups and international chapters, including in Brazil, China, Luxembourg, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Turkey and the USA.

The study taken ahead of the upcoming transport logistic event in Munich from 9-12 May 2023, sheds light on how companies in the logistics sector are fundamentally positioned regarding the development of innovations—on the one hand from the perspective of service providers, but also from the perspective of their customers from industry and trade. The study comes to the following five key results.

Shippers expect innovative services at the same price

Logistic Service Providers still allocate a rather low amount of financial and human resources to the development of new service concepts and the development is not associated with a methodical and structured process.



On the other hand, about one third of the shippers find it positive to have an innovative service provider but are not willing to pay more for it.

Innovation increases efficiency and saves cost

After all, 41 percent of shippers assume that working with an innovative partner will increase their efficiency and save costs. This is also the main motivation for logistics service providers to develop new services. The true value of innovation in tapping into new markets and actively differentiating from competition has not yet been widely recognized.

Innovative strength of logistics service providers is improvable

Asked about their opinion on the general innovative strength of logistics service providers, 42 per cent of the participants from industry and trade say that they consider them to be little or not at all innovative. About a quarter consider them innovative or very innovative. About a third see themselves on a par with their service providers.

Logistics Service Providers could be more self-confident

When analysing by sector, it is noticeable that logistics service providers in the retail sector see themselves as significantly more innovative than they are in the eyes of their customers; the situation is similar in the automotive sector. The opposite is true in the electronics, mechanical engineering and chemical sectors. The logistics service providers could therefore be more self-confident there.

Potential through cooperation and partnership

Developing new logistics services—most shippers consider this task to be exclusively on the side of the logistics service providers. This could explain why only one tenth of the companies in industry and trade are involved in the innovation processes of their service providers, which means that relevant practical know-how in the innovation process is missing. The shippers are thus missing the opportunity to jointly develop innovations that would also enhance their own competitive position.



The short study is part of the dissertation by BVL employee Frederik Pfretzschnner aimed at determining how logistical service innovations can be classified according to their degree of newness.

Within the scope of the survey, 117 logistics and supply chain management experts and decision-makers from industry and trade as well as 213 experts from logistics service providers were surveyed. All details and the complete results are available for download at <https://www.bvl.de/schriften/schriften>.

Innovation at transport logistic 2023

BVL will explicitly address the topic of innovations in logistics in two sessions at transport logistic, the world's leading trade fair for logistics, mobility, IT and supply chain management

In addition to the session about the digital bill of lading on May 10 at 11:30 a.m., which will discuss how "Cloud4Log" can be rolled out to other sectors besides the consumer goods industry.

The session on May 11 at 11:30 a.m. will

The session on May 11 at 11:30 a.m. will focus on the results of the short study. Decision makers from logistics service providers, industry and trade will discuss what conclusions can be drawn from the results and how partnerships and cooperation between logistics service providers and shippers can work in the future.

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Numerous big names in the industry like Dachser, DB Schenker, DHL, DP World, DSV, Geodis, Maersk, Kühne + Nagel or Rhenus have already registered at the event. New additions include companies such as Hellmann Worldwide Logistics, TST from Worms, and Arkas Lojistik from Turkey.

air cargo Europe is also looking good so

far, according to organizer Messe München. The exhibition for the global air cargo industry, integrated into transport logistic, is already in such high demand that a number of companies, as was the case in 2019, will have to be placed in Hall B2.

Stefan Rummel, CEO Messe München, is pleased "that so many well-known companies will be back again at transport logistic next year. The feedback from our customers on air cargo Europe is also a great sign and shows once more how important specialized trade fairs are. This is where decision makers from all over the world meet for a few days to discuss and do business."

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Admiral Mobility to bring 5,000 Electric Commercial Vehicles to the Middle East

The UAE, which aims to become carbon neutral by 2050, ranks 8th globally in terms of readiness for electric mobility, with major government initiatives planned to increase the number of electric vehicles on the roads as a substitute to ensure clean energy.

By Gemma Q. Casas

Dubai, United Arab Emirates: Admiral Mobility, a newly-formed subsidiary of the US-based Admiral Corporation of America, focused on expanding its portfolio on commercial electric vehicles (EVs), announced it is setting up an assembly plant in Dubai for e-trucks and electric vehicles.

In partnership with China's Geely Farizon Commercial Group, Admiral Mobility aims to bring 5,000 electric commercial vehicles to the Middle East from 2023. It comprises of 3,000 Electric Commercial Trucks, split between 6T and 8T, and a further 2,000 Electric Farizon SuperVANs.

The companies said their strategic partnership was a result of the growing demand for ecological transportation, be it for highways, the city or backroads, to ensure a cleaner environment. With the UAE's focus on achieving its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) to provide access to clean energy and sustainable economic growth. The commitment in bringing 500 Commercial Vehicles to the UAE in 2023, will further help build the 'green transportation industry', especially in the lead up to climate change conference, COP28 next year.

Supporting governments, municipalities and 'mega-projects' in its quest to 'decarbonise' the transportation industry, Admiral Mobility's focus will be to offer businesses distributing goods

the opportunity to do this sustainably via the use of EV (electric vehicle) trucks, thus, providing an environmentally-friendly and commercially viable business model.

Furthermore, Admiral Mobility will provide multiple ways to support public and private sector businesses, through assisting with charging network requirements, managing after-sales services, as well as offering attractive leasing model arrangements to provide complete flexibility and peace of mind.

Commenting on the announcement, Frank Bernthalier, Chief Operating Officer, Admiral Mobility, said: "With COP28 fast approaching and sustainability being high on everyone's agendas, this partnership is an important step forward to build a robust, EV truck portfolio in the region. As we transition towards more environmentally-friendly energy and transportation solutions, we are proud to play a key role in building an infrastructure that empowers the government's electrification strategy, and we are looking forward to supporting businesses as they move towards electric vehicles in the region."



With a range of up to 400km, the zero emissions electric Farizon SuperVAN operates safely, taking less than two hours to fully charge via its efficient LFP battery. Advanced safety features include lane-keeping assist adapt cruise control, remote locking systems, high beam LED lights equipped with auto adaption to the surrounding traffic, and of course, ease of comfort of driving.

The UAE, which aims to become carbon neutral by 2050, ranks 8th globally in terms of readiness for electric mobility, with major government initiatives planned to increase the number of electric vehicles on the roads as a substitute to ensure clean energy. According to the Global Electric Mobility Readiness Index – Gemrix 2022, the country's electric vehicle (EV) market is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 30% between 2022 and 2028.

"The development and promotion of new energy commercial vehicles is of great importance and urgency for creating a global sustainable future. With Farizon's advanced automotive technology enabled by our R&D capabilities, now aided by the extensive market reach and customer insights of Admiral Mobility, we are confident in bringing high-quality carbon-free commercial vehicles to

the entire GCC region," said Mingshi Lin, Vice President, Geely Farizon New Energy Commercial Vehicle Group.



Admiral Mobility at a glance

Admiral Mobility is the mobility business arm of Admiral Corporation of America Inc. Founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1934 by US entrepreneur Ross Siragusa, Admiral has built a worldwide reputation for quality home appliances and consumer electronics.

Admiral diversified into clean mobility and energy solutions in 2021. Admiral Energy is involved in design, development, and management of customized, comprehensive eco system for deployment of solutions related to clean mobility and energy storage for global markets.

Formed in 2022, Admiral Mobility is focused on expanding the corporation's portfolio to include commercial electric vehicles (EVs).

Geely Farizon New Energy Commercial Vehicle Group

Farizon Auto is the new energy commercial vehicle brand under Geely Farizon New Energy Commercial

Vehicles Group. It is also China's first commercial vehicle brand that has completed an all-new-energy product series.

Guided by technology and focused on user experience, Farizon seeks to create zero-carbon transportation and a sustainable future. Except for having access to the technical resources of Geely Group, Farizon has also established one of the largest new energy commercial vehicles research

institute in China, with more than 2,000 R&D engineers around the world.

Farizon has five product lines, namely heavy trucks, light trucks, small trucks, LCVs and buses, which cover all application scenarios of commercial vehicles.



Qatar Airways: Official Airline of the Journey concludes a sensational FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™

Nearly 14,000 flights operated during the tournament, uniting fans for the world's greatest sporting event

DOHA, Qatar: Qatar Airways, the Official Airline Partner of FIFA, concluded its FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ journey in style, presenting the medals and individual awards to Argentina after their historic 4-2 victory on penalties over 2018 champions, France.

Following a thrilling month of non-stop action and entertainment, the airline operated nearly 14,000 flights, uniting the world in Qatar for the greatest sporting show on Earth.

As the Official Airline Partner of FIFA and the Official Airline of the Journey, Qatar Airways celebrated the historic FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ with its global passengers through countless international, local, and onboard football-themed activations and entertainment experiences. The tournament was a resounding success, with impressive attendance figures of over 3.4 million fans throughout the 64 matches.

Throughout the duration of the tournament, the Qatar Airways Sky House, located at the FIFA Fan Festival™ at Al Bidda Park, welcomed more than 1.8 million fans. The iconic pavilion provided a range of interactive activities, including a Neymar challenge, Qverse experience, Swing the World, foosball, and face painting.

"What started off as a dream has finally turned into reality. The State of Qatar succeeded in bringing the world together in a celebration of football and unity, and now history will remember this FIFA World Cup™, the first in the Middle East, and the best edition ever. On behalf of the Qatar Airways Group, I would like to congratulate the Argentinian team for their victorious performance and also commend the French team for their inspiring journey throughout the tournament," said Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker.

"We are grateful to have been a part of this long and rewarding experience as the Official Airline of the Journey. For every step and every mile travelled with us, we have aimed to deliver a flying experience like no other."

Qatar Airways concluded the tournament festivities with a partnership with the international artist, Lili Cantero. During the Final, Cantero live painted a Qatar Airways Boeing 777 aircraft model at the FIFA Fan Festival™. Cantero depicted key moments and highlights of the thrilling face-off between Argentina and France. At the intersection of arts and sports, her work portrays the story of the successfully delivered FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

To celebrate the beginning of the tournament, Qatar Airways launched its official FIFA World Cup™ campaign song, 'C.H.A.M.P.I.O.N.S', featuring the internationally renowned artists DJ Rode and Cheb Khaled. In the span of a month, the highly-popular song reached an astonishing 23 million views.

Privilege Club, the Official Frequent Flyer Programme of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ welcomed over 67,000 new valued members across the tournament period, having successfully completed five different offer campaigns.



Qatar Airways offered all passengers flying through Hamad International Airport (HIA) and Doha International Airport (DIA) a complimentary experience at the Passenger Overflow Areas (POAs) - pre-departure waiting spaces, setting a new standard of excellence for international travel at sporting events. The POAs were built to provide fans with dedicated facilities, to complete their FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ journey.

During the tournament, Qatar Duty Free (QDF), the Official Retail Store for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, exclusively sold FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ merchandise in the fan zones and at all of the eight spectacular stadiums. QDF also inaugurated the first FIFA store at HIA, showcasing an impressive collection of merchandise, souvenirs, collectibles and team jerseys.

Throughout the World Cup period, Qatar Airways and Qatar Executive also sponsored the Diego Armando Maradona Give&Get Fanfest to honour the late, great Diego Maradona, using state-of-the-art technology, public exhibits, events, auctions and more.

Besides the football, the airline also hosted seven Qatar Live concerts to engage audiences with performances from Jason Derulo, Enrique Iglesias, Black Eyed Peas, J Balvin, Robbie Williams, Tamer Hosny, and Akon. Alongside these world-renowned artists, Qatar Live also brought back the Daydream festival with a new stage - the Magic Lantern.

Hamad International Airport, ranked "Best Airport in the World" for the second year in a row by SKYTRAX World Airport Awards 2022, unveiled a state-of-the-art 10,000-sqm, lush, tropical indoor garden named "The Orchard." Drenched in natural light and featuring sustainably sourced plants and shrubs, it offered a show-stopping, luxury shopping experience to fans with many first-of-a-kind retail outlets.

In 2017, Qatar Airways announced its partnership with FIFA as the Official Airline. The alliance has gone on to connect and unite fans globally, with The World's Best Airline also sponsoring numerous football tournaments such as the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017™, the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, the FIFA Club World Cup™, and the FIFA Women's World Cup™.

A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways currently flies to more than 150 destinations worldwide, connecting through its Doha hub, Hamad International Airport, voted by Skytrax as the 'World's Best Airport'.



Air New Zealand chooses VoltAero as partner for its "Mission Next Gen Aircraft" project

ROYAN, FRANCE: VoltAero has been chosen as one of Air New Zealand's "Mission Next Gen Aircraft" demonstration partners for the airline's sustainable fleet ambitions.

VoltAero and its Cassio electric-hybrid aircraft are aligned to Air New Zealand's goal of working with world-leading innovators in introducing zero-emission passenger/cargo flights. The Cassio aircraft family provides outstanding safety with a dual source of electric-hybrid energy, along with the ability to utilize runways as short as 1,800 feet – opening the airline's regional airport network infrastructure for its operations.

"Our selection by Air New Zealand is an important confirmation of VoltAero's pragmatic and realistic approach to developing the Cassio aircraft family," explained Jean Botti, VoltAero's CEO and Chief Technical Officer. "Instead of promises, we can respond today to Air New Zealand's requirement for the demonstration of next-generation sustainable aircraft."

VoltAero's proprietary electric-hybrid propulsion system has logged more than 10,000 km since 2019, operating in its full 600-kilowatt power definition aboard the company's Cassio 1 testbed airplane – performing flights on typical regional airline routes, as well as segments over water.



The VoltAero hybrid propulsion concept is unique: Cassio aircraft will utilize electric motors in the aft fuselage-mounted propulsion system for all-electric power during taxi, take-off, primary flight, and landing.

Cassio aircraft will be built in three versions with configurations from five to 12 seats, each sharing a high degree of modularity and commonality. This family will provide a capable and reliable product line for regional commercial airline operators, air taxi/charter companies, private owners, as well as in utility-category service for cargo, postal delivery and medical evacuation (Medevac) applications.

The first production version in process of certification is the Cassio 330, with five seats and powered by a 330-kilowatt electric-hybrid propulsion system. Its service entry is targeted for the end of 2024, well ahead of Air New Zealand's objective to purchase new-generation sustainable aircraft for deliveries from 2026.

VoltAero's follow-on six-seat Cassio 480 will have an electric-hybrid propulsion power of 480 kilowatts, while the Cassio 600 is sized at a 12-seat capacity with electric-hybrid propulsion power of 600 kilowatts.

IATA says total blocked airline funds rises to \$2 billion

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) warned the amount of airline funds for repatriation being blocked by governments has risen by more than 25% (\$394 million) in the last six months bringing to close to \$2 billion the total funds blocked, thus far.

IATA, which represents more than 290 airlines worldwide, calls on governments to remove all barriers to airlines repatriating their revenues from ticket sales and other activities, in line with international agreements and treaty obligations.

IATA is also renewing its calls on Venezuela to settle the \$3.8 billion of airline funds that have been blocked from repatriation since 2016 when the last authorization for limited repatriation of funds was allowed by the Venezuelan government.

"Preventing airlines from repatriating funds may appear to be an easy way to shore up depleted treasuries, but ultimately the local economy will pay a high price. No business can sustain providing service if they cannot get paid and this is no different for airlines. Air links are a vital economic catalyst. Enabling the efficient repatriation of revenues is a critical for any economy to remain globally connected to markets and supply chains," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

Airline funds are being blocked from repatriation in more than 27 countries and territories. The top five markets with blocked funds (excluding Venezuela) are:

- Nigeria: \$551 million
- Pakistan: \$225 million
- Bangladesh: \$208 million
- Lebanon: \$144 million
- Algeria: \$140 million



Total airline funds blocked from repatriation in Nigeria are \$551 million. Repatriation issues arose in March 2020 when demand for foreign currency in the country outpaced supply and the country's banks were not able to service currency repatriations.

Despite these challenges Nigerian authorities have been engaged with the airlines and are, together with the industry, working to find measures to release the funds available.

"Nigeria is an example of how government-industry engagement can resolve blocked funds issues. Working with the Nigerian House of Representatives, Central Bank and the Minister of Aviation resulted in the release of \$120 million for repatriation with the promise of a further release at the end of 2022.

This encouraging progress demonstrates that, even in difficult circumstances, solutions can be found to clear blocked funds and ensure vital connectivity," said Kamil Al-Awadhi as Regional Vice President for Africa and the Middle East.

Airlines have also restarted efforts to recover the \$3.8 billion of unrepatriated airline revenues in Venezuela. There have been no approvals of repatriation of these airline funds since early 2016 and connectivity to Venezuela has dwindled to a handful of airlines selling tickets primarily outside the country.

Etihad Airways adds flights to Shanghai as travel demand to and from China grows

ABU DHABI, UAE: Etihad Airways is set to strengthen air connectivity between the UAE and China next year, starting with an additional weekly frequency on its Abu Dhabi – Shanghai route, the airline announced.

Subject to regulatory approval, from February 2023, the airline says it will fly to Pudong International Airport (PVG) two times per week using modern Boeing 787 and 777 aircraft. Combined with a weekly service to Beijing and a twice-weekly service to Guangzhou, this will provide travellers with five weekly nonstop flights between Abu Dhabi and China.

Martin Drew, Senior Vice President of Global Sales & Cargo at Etihad Aviation Group, said: "Etihad Airways is delighted to add a second weekly passenger service to Shanghai following the further relaxation of Covid-related travel measures.

"China is a market of primary importance to Etihad, and as one of the country's largest financial and economic centres, Shanghai plays a crucial role in our network. Etihad is committed to developing our operation to China, and we look forward to welcoming more travellers on board in the new year to experience our award-winning hospitality."



The announcement follows the launch of nonstop flights between Abu Dhabi and Guangzhou in October 2022, when Etihad Airways became the first international airline to operate long-haul passenger flights to the top three Chinese gateways since the start of the pandemic.

The airline marked another milestone in China in 2022 when it operated the first regular international passenger flight to recommence to Beijing when the capital reopened for international direct travel in June 2022.

flydubai celebrates Argentina national football team's world cup victory with two special liveries



Dubai, UAE: flydubai has unveiled a special livery on two of its Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft to celebrate the Argentina national football team's victory in the final of the World Cup 2022 in Qatar.

As the regional partner for the Argentine Football Association (AFA), the Dubai-based low-cost carrier carried the champions from Abu Dhabi to Doha after they concluded their training on 18 November, marking the start of their race to the cup.

The new livery features the iconic world cup trophy and the Argentina national flag over the winning team of Capt. Lionel Messi, which include Julian Alvarez, Rodrigo De Paul, Angel Di Maria, Lautaro Martinez, Nicolas Otamendi, Paulo Dybala, etc. The "Campeón" decal and the three-starred AFA logo are added to the celebratory liveries.

The aircraft A6-FKA and A6-FKB will operate on select flights on the last day of the Match Day Shuttle service between Dubai World Central (DWC) and Doha International Airport (DIA). Since the launch of these special Match Day Shuttle flights on 21 November,

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The aircraft A6-FKA and A6-FKB will operate on select flights on the last day of the Match Day Shuttle service between Dubai World Central (DWC) and Doha International Airport (DIA). Since the launch of these special Match Day Shuttle flights on 21 November, flydubai has carried more than 170,000 football fans from across the globe to Doha to take part in the biggest event in the world.

Commenting on the Argentina national football team's win and the new special liveries, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai, said: "What a fantastic fun-filled month of football it has been. The operation of up to 30 daily Match Day Shuttle flights between Dubai and Doha has been an unprecedented milestone in the region. This was possible thanks to the support and collaboration of all involved including Dubai Airports, dnata, Dubai Police, Dubai Immigration, the authorities and our partner Qatar Airways."



DUBAI, UAE: Dubai Airports has upped again its annual forecast for passenger traffic at Dubai International (DXB) to 64.3 million following a strong performance by the hub in the third quarter, and the prospects of a stronger surge in the offing in the final three months of 2022.

DXB started the second half of the year with a bang, with average monthly traffic exceeding the 6-million mark throughout the third quarter. The hub recorded 18.5 million passengers in Q3, the first time that quarterly traffic reached pre-pandemic levels since 2020. DXB had recorded 17.8 million passengers in the first quarter of 2020 prior to the pandemic.

"The growth in passenger traffic has been terrific throughout the year and continues to exceed our expectations by a margin. While we are thrilled with the numbers, what really gives us immense satisfaction is how the airport community is working together like a well-oiled machine to keep raising the bar on service quality. Our collaborative approach and service transformation initiatives are making a tangible difference in the happiness of our customers, and that remains our ultimate measure of success," said Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports.

Passenger volumes at DXB recorded a triple digit surge in the third quarter to

Dubai Airports caps 2022 with 64.3 million passengers

reach 18,455,938, propelling the year-to-date September traffic to 46,340,826 passengers, a year-on-year (YoY) increase of 167.6 percent. The YTD traffic volume represents 72 percent of DXB's pre-pandemic passenger traffic during the same period in 2019.

Impacted by the moving of all major freight operators from DXB back to Dubai World Central (DWC) in March, Cargo continued to register a softening of demand in Q3. DXB recorded 397,676 tons of freight in the Q3, bringing the total volume for the first nine months of 2022 to 1,307,691 tons, a YoY drop of 23.3 percent.

Flight movements in Q3 surged to 98,577 at DXB, propelling the number of flight movements recorded between January and September to 274,911, up 159.5 percent YoY.

India was DXB's top country destination in terms of traffic volume, recording 6.8 million passengers in the first nine months of the year. Saudi Arabia was placed second with 3.4m passengers followed by the UK (3.2m passengers) and Pakistan (2.7m passengers). Other country markets of note were the US and Australia with 2.2m and 1.1m in passenger traffic respectively. The top three cities by traffic were London (2m passengers), Riyadh (1.5m) and Mumbai (1.3m).

BIAL launches metaverse experience at BLR Airport

BENGALURU, INDIA: Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), the operator of Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport), recently launched the first phase of the 'BLR Metaport' which allows passengers to experience metaverse. With this new launch, BLR Airport's T2 becomes one of the first terminals in the world that can be experienced on the metaverse.

Built in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Polygon, the BLR Metaport offers an immersive, three-dimensional (3D) virtual experience of the newly launched Terminal 2 at BLR Airport. Interested travelers and the public can log on to www.blrmetaport.com and virtually tour and navigate the new state-of-the-art terminal, using their smart devices.

The BLR Metaport is an outcome of the Joint Innovation Centre (JIC), announced in April 2022 by BIAL, AWS, and Intel. The JIC focuses on driving the development and adoption of digital solutions in aviation. For BIAL, the mission of the JIC is to leverage emerging technologies to build new business models and passenger experiences and be at the forefront of technology innovation in India's commercial aviation.

Developed in line with this mission, the BLR Metaport is one of the first airport metaverse experience, designed to deliver an enhanced digital experience for travelers. A 3D interface will offer customers new ways to interact with the airport, such as checking into flights, navigating terminals, shopping, and social aspects like connecting with other travelers. BLR Metaport brings the virtual and physical worlds together to provide consistent engagement, and aims to excite travelers with new, unique, and immersive experiences.

"We are very excited that BIAL is entering into the new world of metaverse through the BLR Metaport. This is our first foray into the world of Web3 and non-fungible tokens (NFTs), and we aim to delight travellers with a unique, immersive, and virtual experience. We believe that it is important to connect with a new



generation of our global audience through the metaverse. We also have several initiatives planned around the BLR Metaport, which promise to increase ways in which we can engage with our global audience and enhance business impact over the next few years," said BIAL's Chief Strategy and Development Officer Satyaki Raghunath.

BLR Metaport is built on the fundamentals of decentralization, where control and decision-making are transferred from a centralized entity to a distributed network. It uses the Polygon Blockchain, which will act as a medium of digital economy in the future for users to trade digital assets seamlessly and securely.

These digital assets could be digital artwork at the BLR Metaport, certificates that are given for completing various industry-related training courses, collectibles, utility and commemorative NFTs. In the future, BLR Metaport will enable users to shop from their favorite brands sitting in any part of the world.

NEXT50 begins phase 1 deployment of next-generation biometrics at Abu Dhabi International Airport



ABU DHABI, UAE: NEXT50, an Abu Dhabi based technology company, says it's well underway to deliver the first phase of the biometric initiative at Abu Dhabi international Airport.

The project, which sees NEXT50 introduce its cutting-edge AI solutions alongside global artificial intelligence and technology solutions partners IDEMIA and SITA, will initially see the deployment of next generation biometric solutions at select self-service baggage touchpoints, immigration e-gates, and boarding gates before implementing the technology across all passenger touchpoints in the airport.

"We are excited to be leading the biometrics project at the UAE capital's state-of-the-art International Airport as part of the Emirate's digital transformation vision," said Ibrahim Al Mannaee, NEXT50'S Chief Executive Officer. "Once the project is fully realized, the airport will be the only airport in the region with biometric solutions implemented across all customer touchpoints, contributing to Abu Dhabi Airport's vision to become the operator of the most technology-driven airport in the world, providing a seamless journey to all its passengers. We are proud to be joining forces with IDEMIA and SITA and offering our expertise in artificial intelligence and data sciences to make this initiative a reality."

Eng. Jamal Salem Al Dhaheri, MD and CEO of Abu Dhabi Airports, noted: "The phase one deployment of advanced biometrics at Abu Dhabi International Airport further cements our commitment to shape the future of airport experiences by delivering innovation and technology that drives efficiency, convenience and service excellence. Upon final completion of the project, Abu Dhabi will be home to the world's first airport to include every touch point in the biometric journey, providing travellers with a seamless, safe and secure passenger experience."

Once the project is delivered, it will offer passengers a convenient, simplified, contactless and hygienic experience from 'curb-to-gate'. In addition, this will result in reduced wait times and less time queuing for passengers. The systems will use hi-tech biometric cameras to verify passenger details along several touchpoints in the airport, which includes the self-service baggage drop, passport control, business class lounge, and boarding gates.

Hani El Assaad, President Middle East & Africa, SITA, said, "The airport of the future will be driven by technology that enables safe, seamless, and easy travel every step of the way. This latest deployment showcases the power of Smart Path to deliver a fluid journey where a passenger's face becomes their boarding pass, from check in to boarding."

Osama Al Makharmeh, Executive Director, IDEMIA, UAE, described the project as paving the way for a more secure travel future, saying, "This partnership harnesses contactless biometric technology that gives users an unrivalled airport experience without letting up one jot on security. This bears out our capacity to constantly innovate to safeguard passenger trust and help pave the way for even smoother and more secure future travel."

3 new taxi companies to provide services in Finland's Kuopio and Tampere-Pirkkala airports



HELSINKI, FINLAND: Finavia, the Finnish airport operator, says it has signed contracts with three taxi companies that will provide transport services at Kuopio and Tampere-Pirkkala airports effective 01 February 2023.

"We want to provide air passengers with a smooth travel experience and keep the service level as high as possible at all our airports. We have positive

experiences of similar contracts at our other airports," said Jani Jokkinen, Finavia's Senior Vice President, Airport Network.

The contracted taxi companies are Kuopion Taksitykköset and Menevä Oy at Kuopio Airport and Tatsilla Oy at Tampere-Pirkkala Airport. The companies' tasks include making sure that taxis are available at the airport whenever there are scheduled flights.

When the contracts take effect in February, the taxi arrangements in front of the terminal will also change. A separate lane, located in front of the terminal's main entrance, will be reserved for the cars of the contracted companies.

The other taxis will be diverted to another taxi lane. In addition, Kuopio Airport has its own waiting area for pre-booked taxis. Finavia said passengers will continue to be free to choose the taxi company they wish to use.



Raffael Quintas is Etihad Airways' new Chief Financial Officer

Abu Dhabi, UAE: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has named Raffael Quintas as its

new Chief Financial Officer.

Prior to joining Etihad, Quintas served as CFO at Infracommerce, the largest e-commerce enabler and solution provider in Latin America. He also served as the CFO of the Portuguese flag carrier TAP Air Portugal and the Corporate Treasurer position at Brazilian airline Azul Linhas Aéreas where he took on roles of increasing financial responsibility during a nine-year tenure.

"Raffael is a widely respected senior finance executive who brings more than 20 years of international experience across the aviation and retail sectors to the role. As we position Etihad Airways for post-pandemic growth, I am confident that his leadership experience and strategic insights in all aspects of aviation financing, from fleet planning to supply chain management, will help drive our continued success," said Antonoaldo Neves, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways.

Quintas holds a degree in Business Administration from Fundação Getulio Vargas and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

"I am delighted to join the Etihad team, especially at such a pivotal moment. Etihad is one of the world's most recognised and trusted aviation brands and I am excited to be part of the next chapter at Etihad as we continue to strengthen our financial position," said Quintas who will be succeeding Adam Boukadida who left Etihad after nine years to pursue a new role.

Adam has played a key role in leading our finance organisation through the turbulence of Covid-19 and, more widely, through the broader transformation of our business, and I want to thank him for his contribution to Etihad," said Neves.



LUXEMBOURG: The Cool Chain Association (CCA) has welcomed Brussels Airport, Boeing, Singapore Airport Terminal Services (SATS), and Validaide as new members and appointed Miguel Rodríguez, Senior Manager Climate Control Products, Qatar Airways, as Treasurer.

The Association, which this year celebrates its 20th anniversary, continues to grow with the vision of facilitating and enabling collaboration, education, and innovation in the temperature-sensitive supply chain amongst its members.

"CCA is focused on finding new ways to collaborate and back initiatives that deliver tangible results," said Stavros

Cool Chain Association welcomes 4 new members as it appoints Miguel Rodriguez as Treasurer

Evangelakakis, Chairman, Cool Chain Association. "Our ideas are striking a chord with the industry, and we are pleased to welcome our four new members as part of our movement for change."

New Treasurer Rodríguez brings over a decade of experience in air transport including senior roles in the temperature-controlled supply chain at Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways.

"I take on this new challenge to further support the CCA in its mission to continue growing its membership base, attracting talented individuals who want to deliver and contribute to new projects, and providing the industry with solutions and guidance on cool chain transportation," said Rodríguez who replaces Eric Maurox, Founder and CEO of FreshBizDev, who has served as treasurer since 2018.

Boeing has been working closely with CCA members and recently participated in the CCA's Pharma Event in Athens, Greece, presenting a case study on the performance of its aircraft's temperature-controlled capabilities for a consignment of flowers from South America to Europe.

"Boeing is committed to enhancing sustainability in Aviation and is enthusiastic about the opportunity for multiple Boeing organisations, including Boeing Commercial Airplanes - Advanced Concepts, Boeing Research & Technology – Applied Innovation, and Boeing Global Services to work more closely with the CCA and its member companies to achieve their shared goal of making the Cold Chain more sustainable," said Aaron Black, Strategy Principal, Boeing.

Brussels Airport has re-joined the CCA after a short hiatus to support the organisation's new drive to deliver programmes with tangible results.

Sam Quintelier, Cargo Business Development Manager at Brussels Airport, attended the CCA's AGM and Perishables event in Rome, Italy earlier this year to demonstrate the airport's new Perishable Management App developed to tackle wastage, and increase transparency between airline cargo handlers, freight forwarders and authorities.

SATS is the chief ground handling and in-flight catering service provider at Singapore Changi Airport and has developed a Cargo Terminal Network that spans over 10 major locations, such as Hong Kong and Dammam, harnessing innovation, technologies, and talents to feed and connect communities in over 60 locations and 14 countries across the Asia Pacific, UK and the Middle East. Validaide was founded in 2016 to support the logistics industry with digital solutions for lane risk assessments and supplier qualification.



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Upcoming Events

World Cargo Summit 2023

After two highly successful virtual events in 2021 and 2022, World Cargo Summit 2023 with the theme "Embracing Opportunities and Challenges" will go live in Abu Dhabi where speakers from all over the world will participate. Current business environment for the air freight industry is highly challenging and unpredictable. Do we see permanent and perpetual disruption? Learn how to adapt your business model for years to come.

If you are looking for new contacts, this event will provide unrivalled business opportunities. Meet and network with airlines, airports, forwarders, project developers and aviation service providers. We have incredible networking capabilities to drive meaningful engagement between participants. The event kicks off with the Air Cargo Executives Networking Desert Happening in sunset desert location with great entertainment and networking opportunities.

**30 January -01 February 2023 | Hilton Abu Dhabi
Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

2023 AIAA Science and Technology Forum and Exposition (AIAA SciTech Forum)

American Institute of Aeronautics And Astronautics Inc. (AIAA) SciTech Forum is the world's largest event for aerospace research, development, and technology. The 2023 forum promises to ignite the Future: Explore the Frontiers of Aerospace. The program will explore how aerospace is solving societal grand challenges, the funding resources available, the intersection of science and engineering, accelerating confidence in this digital world, and making Sci-Fi a reality. The 2023 forum will be a hybrid event which will include both in-person and virtual components, offering you the flexibility and choice of how to participate. The forum aims to bring together over 5,000 participants from across the globe in a hybrid setting representing hundreds of government, academic, and private institutions.

22-27 January 2023 | Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Washington DC, USA.

Digital Cargo Conference 2023

The 2023 IATA Digital Cargo Conference will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 21-22 February 2023.

The Digital Cargo Conference provides a platform for industry professionals with a stake in digital cargo to interact with each other and be informed about the latest worldwide developments, in terms of regulation, standards, business processes, and technology. This edition will focus on the digital transition towards full implementation of ONE Record by 1 January 2026. As a first, there will be an Executive Summit (by invitation) and a Tech Summit, on the morning prior to the conference.

**21-22 February 2023 | IATA Conference Centre
Geneva, Switzerland**



Air Cargo Africa 2023

Air Cargo Africa is the sector's leading industry exhibition and conference. Delivering new business opportunities, global perspectives and strong networking platforms, the air cargo Africa trade show, conference and awards engage the global air cargo community to explore and strengthen networking corridors with the African Continent.

With 69 exhibitors, 1550 visitors and 640 delegates, air cargo Africa has established itself, as the meeting hub for the African air cargo sector, creating exciting and lasting opportunities.

**21-23 February 2023 | Sandton Convention Center
Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa**

World Cargo Symposium 2023

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

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

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

Air Cargo Europe 2023

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

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

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

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



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