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Vol. 13, Issue 06, No.123, June 2023
The first and only PAN - Regional Magazine
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John Ackerman
Executive Vice President
DFW Airport

09 **Femme Fleet**
Celine Hourcade

30 | Features
Emirates Group reaps record \$32.6 billion revenue in 2022-23

40 | Trucking
ABB E-mobility and Scania in development of Megawatt Charging System

The Lounge
Yuval Baruch
CEO, Hermes Logistics Technologies

Airlines

Airports

Logistics



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Rebuilding lost dynamics

After three years of cautious traveling due to the threat of the pandemic, the global aviation industry is resurging again with more optimism, flexibility and dynamism and operating with better immersive and smart technologies.

Airlines have resumed services to thousands of cities worldwide as passengers return to the skies. The result: More jobs, more business activities in different sectors, especially tourism and IT, creating a healthier global trade in the process.

This despite the many challenges in different fronts—the global impact of the Russia-led war against Ukraine, the unprecedented worldwide inflation, economic meltdown in various countries, climate change, food security issues, natural calamities, among other things.

At the three-day Airport Show recently hosted in Dubai, the International Air Transport Association praised the aviation industry's resilience and its innovative solutions to resurrect itself from the devastating impact of the pandemic. So far, the industry is winning with studies showing it's on track to full recovery with the Middle East region on the lead.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia appears to be the strongest in the region with experts anticipating their full recovery by 2024 and continued growth thereafter every year through 2040 at 4.2%. That growth is also transcending to the wider air cargo industry with belly-hold capacity increasing and reaching more destinations worldwide.

The rosy forecast is enough to convince governments in the region to invest more on better facilities and smart technologies on airports as well as passenger and cargo terminals, to support the continued projected growth in the traveling industry.

In the Middle East alone, airport infrastructure projects approximately costing \$151 billion are planned for construction to handle about 1.1 billion passengers by 2040. After months and years of uncertainly, we can all have a sigh of relief that there's light at the end of the tunnel. The future looks bright, after all.

Gemma Q. Casas
Editor-in-Chief

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20 Cover Story | *DFW Airport: Connecting the World, Defining the Future*



06 The Lounge
'During weekends, I embark on long runs and bike rides, providing me with a sense of meditation and rejuvenation.'



30 Features
Emirates Group reaps record \$32.6 billion revenue in 2022-23, up by 81% amid strong customer demand worldwide with pandemic travel restrictions removed



40 Trucking
ABB E-mobility and Scania successfully undertake first test in development of Megawatt Charging System



09
Femme Fleet
Celine Hourcade

50 Upcoming Events

- 10** Global News
- 26** Features
- 32** Aviation
- 44** Airports
- 46** Executive Moments
- 47** Gallery





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'DURING WEEKENDS, I EMBARK ON LONG RUNS AND BIKE RIDES, PROVIDING ME WITH A SENSE OF MEDITATION AND REJUVENATION.'



Yuval Baruch
CEO, Hermes Logistics Technologies

activities. During weekends, I embark on long runs and bike rides, providing me with a sense of meditation and rejuvenation. Furthermore, I have developed a fondness for fine whiskey, appreciating its ability to help me unwind after a challenging day. Savoring a shot of whiskey allows me to reflect, cleanse my mind, and regain focus—a perfect complement to my relatively intense career and demanding work environment," Baruch shared.

As a businessman, Baruch has been blessed to constantly travel and each destination leaves a unique imprint to one's mind.

"I have been fortunate to explore various captivating destinations. Vietnam left an indelible impression on me, with its breathtaking scenery and rich cultural heritage. Costa Rica, too, captivated my heart with its natural beauty and charm. However, my recent relocation to Italy has allowed me to discover the wonders of this captivating country. From the historical treasures scattered throughout the land to the picturesque landscapes, Italy has become a source of constant inspiration and exploration," he said.

And traveling leads to savoring different cuisines.

"I find myself drawn to two extremes. Japanese delicacies, such as sushi and sashimi, captivate me with their precision, delicacy, and refined flavors. On the other end of the spectrum, Indian cuisine entices me with its bold and vibrant mix of spices and flavors. These two culinary worlds provide me with a culinary journey that satisfies both my appreciation for precision and my love for rich, diverse tastes," Baruch explained.

Baruch is also keen on learning new languages to bridge the gap between people.

"If I were to choose a language to learn, I would be most curious about Chinese. Given China's significant global influence and impact, being able to communicate in their native language would open doors to deeper understanding and connection. Like my experience with Italian, speaking someone's language allows for a more profound connection and enhanced learning," he said.

In terms of literary preferences, Baruch prefers fiction. "I find solace and escapism in fiction. Espionage and legal thrillers, with their suspenseful plots, hold a particular appeal for me. These stories offer a much-needed break from reality and provide an avenue for relaxation and mental stimulation."

But while he delights in reading fiction, Baruch is cognizant of the importance of personal growth. "Throughout my personal and professional journey, I have sought opportunities for personal development and growth. One notable program that left a lasting impact on me was 'Landmark'. This transformative experience encouraged introspection and empowered me."

Setting up a business comes with many challenges. Unlocking solutions and adopting innovative ideas to make your operations work is key to growth.

Learning about these fundamental rules in business comes as an initiation to many in the field, including, Yuval Baruch, the CEO of Hermes Logistics Technologies.

"Entering a new industry posed its challenges, particularly in terms of understanding the unique characteristics of Hermes as a company and familiarizing myself with the intricacies of the air cargo ecosystem. Crafting a strategic vision for the company proved to be pivotal, ensuring that we maintained a competitive edge and stayed ahead of the game in this dynamic and technologically active landscape," shared Baruch, adding, he had to use multifaceted approaches to overcome the initial challenges.

He continued: "Initially, I embarked on a customer tour, immersing myself in face-to-face interactions with clients to gather unfiltered feedback. This allowed me to gain insights into their preferences, expectations, and plans. Additionally, I invested considerable time in closely collaborating with my team, diligently learning about the intricacies of the business, and fostering a deep understanding of our operations. Armed with this knowledge, I formulated a comprehensive strategy, which entailed assembling a proficient leadership team to drive our growth trajectory. Since then, we have experienced continuous expansion and progress."

In the dynamic corporate world, work-life balance is considered an art form, varying from person to person.

"When it comes to maintaining a work-life balance, I must admit that I am still on a quest for improvement. Nevertheless, I have identified a few strategies that help me unwind and recharge. As an avid triathlete, I find solace and mental clarity in physical



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From Passion to Purpose:
Celine Hourcade's journey
in shaping the future of air cargo

The world of aviation has always captivated Celine Hourcade, thanks to her grandfather's adventurous career as a telecom engineer. From her early childhood memories of flying as an unaccompanied minor on Air France, she knew she wanted a job that would allow her to travel the world. While her focus was initially on the passenger side of the airline industry, it was her entry into the air cargo realm that sparked her passion and set her on a transformative journey.

With a degree from a renowned French Business School, specializing in the digital transformation of businesses, Hourcade embarked on her professional path with Amadeus, a leading player in e-travel. Digital transformation became her forte. In 2006, she joined the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to support the global adoption of electronic ticketing for passengers.

In 2008, however, when Hourcade transitioned to IATA's cargo department, she truly discovered the air cargo industry and developed an unwavering love for it. Embracing the sense of belonging within the air cargo "family," Hourcade was fortunate to have inspiring mentors guiding her every step of the way.

"Come and join the air cargo industry, develop your network, get the support of inspiring mentors, help other women along the way and contribute to positive changes to make your company and industry better, efficient, inclusive, attractive, sustainable, modern, and profitable."



Celine Hourcade

Managing Director, Change Horizon

During her tenure as the former head of Cargo Transformation at IATA, Hourcade achieved remarkable milestones in innovation, digitalization, and sustainability. She played a pivotal role in creating initiatives such as the IATA Air Cargo Innovation Awards, the DronesLAB, the CO2 measurement standard for shipments, the Air Cargo Makes It Happen campaign and the Interactive Cargo, Modernizing Cargo Distribution, and ONE Record projects.

Driven by her passion for sustainability, Hourcade founded Change Horizon in 2019, a Swiss-based management consulting firm. The company's mission is to embed sustainability into the DNA of the aviation and logistics sectors.

Through Change Horizon, Hourcade and her team support CEOs and senior management in defining or redefining their corporate strategies, integrating sustainability into their day-to-day operations and culture, and ultimately helping them become better versions of themselves.

One of Hourcade's earliest mandates was to lead the transformation and sustainability program for the air cargo industry at The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA). Together with her team, she developed the TIACA Air Cargo Sustainability Roadmap and TIACA's BlueSky program, aiming to drive positive change in the industry.

Hourcade recognizes the challenges that women and minority groups face in the workplace, including discrimination, lack of representation, pay gaps, and internal barriers like impostor syndrome and fear of failure. Having encountered some of these challenges herself, she is committed to supporting younger professionals in overcoming these obstacles.

As the co-founder and president of Women in Aviation & Logistics (WAL), a non-profit association, and the co-founder and former manager of IATA's Future Air Cargo Executive (FACE), Hourcade actively contributes to creating a more diverse and inclusive air cargo industry that attracts and empowers the younger generation.

As the air cargo industry evolves, Hourcade believes that more opportunities will arise for women to develop, be recognized, and make a significant impact. Her message to aspiring women is clear: "Join the air cargo industry, build your network, seek support from inspiring mentors, empower other women along the way, and contribute to positive changes that enhance your company and the industry. By doing so, we can create a better, more efficient, inclusive, attractive sustainable, modern, and profitable."

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Etihad Cargo launches ai-powered solutions to transform airfreight operations and optimise cargo capacity

Following successful trials of Speedcargo's Amplifi, Cargo Eye and Assemble products, the carrier will initially launch the solutions in Singapore and will be expanding their use across its global network in the coming months.



Etihad Cargo and Speedcargo executives on the Etihad Cargo stand at air cargo Europe 2023 in Munich, Germany. Martin Drew, Senior Vice President – Global Sales & Cargo at Etihad Airways and Thomas Schurmann, Head of Cargo Operations & Delivery at Etihad Cargo, 3rd and 2nd right, respectively. Supplied Photo

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has launched an innovative artificial intelligence (AI)-powered solutions to transform airfreight operations and boost cargo capacity on flights.

The UAE's national airfreight carrier said the deployment of state-of-the-art AI tools is the latest step in its digitalisation journey and will enable the carrier to improve cargo volumes by optimising capacity on every flight across the carrier's network.

In 2021, Etihad Cargo entered into a landmark proof-of-concept agreement with leading logistics technology solutions provider, Speedcargo Technologies, becoming one of only a few global carriers to leverage the Singapore-based provider's AI products to maximise cargo capacity on flights.

Following successful trials of Speedcargo's AI solutions, Etihad Cargo has rolled out three AI-powered products — Amplifi, Cargo Eye and Assemble — to boost efficiency, digitise and standardise cargo handling across Etihad Cargo's network, and enhance service levels for the carrier's customers and partners.

Etihad Cargo uses Amplifi to optimise cargo loads on each flight. The technology dynamically calculates free and usable capacity based on booked cargo, aircraft type and cargo offer.

Utilising the system-generated ULD level load plans, Etihad Cargo will maximise the cargo carried on its flights and significantly reduce the risk of overbookings.

Cargo Eye is a scalable, modular system that captures cargo dimensions and volume data. Powered by Microsoft's IOT Edge solutions and Speedcargo's proprietary algorithms, this solution allows Etihad Cargo to digitise cargo as it enters the carrier's ground handling stations, enabling the real-time sharing of cargo information for load planning, build-up planning and forward operations.

Etihad Cargo said it will deploy Assemble across the carrier's network of ground-handling stations to facilitate the digital planning and build-up of ULDs using the load plans generated by Amplifi. Offering a user-friendly solution, Amplifi provides ground handling partners with build-up plans that provide step-by-step instructions for optimally built ULDs that conform to safety regulations.

"Since embarking on its digitalisation strategy in 2018, Etihad Cargo has developed, trialled and launched new technologies and solutions to provide customers and partners with an improved service offering. The recently completed trials of Speedcargo's AI-powered solutions have demonstrated it is possible to

improve cargo capacity utilisation across Etihad Cargo's fleet and standardise cargo acceptance and build-up processes to improve the consistency and quality of cargo handling at stations within Etihad Cargo's network," said Martin Drew, Etihad Cargo, Senior Vice President – Global Sales & Cargo.

"Etihad Cargo, with the launch of these AI solutions, is creating an information-rich network that connects airline operations and ground handling for better planning and decision-making. Creating digital audit trails of how cargo is received and handled will benefit Etihad Cargo's customers by providing a more seamless end-to-end experience and improving the productivity and efficiency of planners and ground handling partners, with the ability to handle multiple flights simultaneously," Drew added.

Trials of the AI-powered, end-to-end cargo handling solutions were carried out in Singapore, where this technology has been deployed and is already utilised by Etihad Cargo's ground handling partners. The carrier has also launched a pilot programme to implement these solutions in Frankfurt and is actively collaborating with ground handling partners across Etihad Cargos' expansive global network, with a view to rolling this cargo-maximising technology out to more stations in the coming months.



Emirates SkyCargo and Air Canada enhance cargo interline cooperation

Dubai, UAE: Emirates SkyCargo customers can now easily find and book interline cargo shipments into prime Canadian destinations, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary, on Air Canada flights via key Emirates European gateways.

The enhanced online booking capabilities now live, enable Emirates SkyCargo customers to book shipments that will travel on Air Canada Cargo flights on an interline basis via e-SkyCargo, WebCargo, and Cargowise, the cargo airline announced. Adding, in the coming weeks, Air Canada Cargo is working to implement similar direct booking capabilities for its customers to more easily access and book interline shipments that will travel on Emirates' flights across its global network.

"We're delighted to team up with Air Canada Cargo to offer expanded access to more destinations in Canada via our European gateways, all bookable online creating a seamless digital experience. We'll continue to work closely with Air Canada to ensure smooth transfers and connections, so that cargo arrives promptly and in excellent condition," said Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo.

"This arrangement with Air Canada will benefit many of our customers, particularly those in West Asia, Middle East and Africa seeking to transport agricultural equipment, machinery, aircraft parts, as well as perishables and general cargo into Canada and other points in North America," he added.

This latest development follows the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February between the two major airlines to provide more benefits to their air freight customers worldwide. It also builds on the broader strategic commercial partnership between Emirates and Air Canada, which was announced last year.

The partnership expands Emirates SkyCargo's reach to over 60 cities in Canada and more than 150 cities across five continents through Air Canada Cargo's fleet of Boeing 767 freighters and the belly-hold capacity of Air Canada's scheduled passenger flights.

In return, Air Canada Cargo has access to Emirates SkyCargo's high frequency distribution network through the belly-hold of Emirates scheduled passenger flights to over 150 global destinations, as well as the additional capacity offered by 11 freighters currently in the Emirates fleet.

Baku, Azerbaijan/Munich, Germany: Silk Way West Airlines and Euroavia International jointly announced on the sidelines of the recently held four-day air cargo Europe 2023 in Munich, the largest global industry event of its kind, the return of the Caspian Air Cargo Summit after a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

The Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023 will be held at the JW Marriott Absheron Hotel in Baku from October 23-25, 2023. The event will bring together key players of the air cargo industry from all over the world to discuss industry trends, challenges, and opportunities and will feature a diverse range of topics, including logistics, transportation, e-commerce and more. Attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices, and to explore new business opportunities.

"We are delighted to have Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023 back on the agenda this year. It is the number one air cargo summit in Central Asia, bringing senior global executives together in a vibrant and exciting region at the heart of one of the world's key trade corridors. The event will provide participants with relevant insights into the growth of air cargo activities in the region as well as not-to-be-missed networking opportunities. As Central Asia's leading cargo carrier, we are looking forward to

Silk Way West Airlines announces upcoming Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023



welcoming participants from all over the globe," said Wolfgang Meier, president of Silk Way West Airlines.

Lars Gunnar-Comen, founder and director of Euroavia International, said: "I am really delighted that Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023 will return this autumn after a four-year hiatus. Caspian Air Cargo Summit has always attracted key air cargo professionals to Baku for great networking, high-level conference sessions and superb entertainment. This year's event will focus on the Europe-Asia trade lane, e-commerce, cargo aircraft, innovation in logistics, the sustainable supply chain, and the global market outlook. Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023 is the ideal one-stop platform to find out about the latest developments in the air logistics industry."

Registration for the Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023 is now open.

Visit www.caspianaircargosummit.com for more information.



Kirsten De Bruijn,
Executive
Vice-President
Cargo WestJet,
with **Kothari
Shailendar,**
Managing Director
of Jettainer
Americas Inc.
Supplied Photo

Jettainer and WestJet Cargo continuing successful partnership

Frankfurt am Main/Munich: WestJet Cargo and Jettainer have agreed on a long-term extension to a partnership dating back to 2015. Canada's second largest airline and the international leader in outsourced ULD management announced the contract extension at the recently held air cargo Europe in Munich.

Over the coming years, Jettainer says it will continue to manage and maintain WestJet's entire ULD fleet, providing additional main deck containers as the airline now launches its first freighter services.

"Since years, Jettainer has been a trusted provider of ULD management services for WestJet and has continued to improve and innovate its services. Even during Covid and post-pandemic, and despite high fluctuations in our ULD requirements, we could always count on

Jettainer for the availability of the ULDs needed. Outsourcing ULD management allows us to fully focus on cargo sales, knowing that we have a competent partner taking care of our growing container and pallet needs. As we now launch and scale up our cargo division, Jettainer's niche expertise will play a key role in our development. We look forward to many more years of successful partnership," said Kirsten De Bruijn, Executive Vice-President Cargo WestJet.

Kothari Shailendar, Managing Director of Jettainer Americas Inc., states when announcing the contract extension at air cargo Europe, noted, "We could not be prouder of the trust expressed through this renewed contract extension. Our long-standing partnership with WestJet is a prime example of how we focus on our customers' individual needs. Our dedicated teams, openness to innovation, and the highest level of transparency help companies be successful in the long term. We are very much looking forward to accompanying WestJet in realizing its ambitious development plans."

WestJet currently operates a Boeing fleet of over 100 737-700, 737-800, 737 MAX 8 and 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft. 2023 will see a significant expansion to its cargo operations with the inclusion for the first time of four 737-800BCFs in its fleet.

Three Boeing converted freighters have already entered service and the fourth one will join in due course. Customers will benefit not only from WestJet Cargo's additional capacity, but also from connections between Canada and the Caribbean, Europe, Japan and the United States. Flight punctuality and meeting the promise to its customers is top of WestJet Cargo's management agenda.

As it builds its cargo airline subsidiary from scratch, WestJet's newly hired team of experienced and motivated cargo staff will focus on tapping into the ever-growing e-commerce business along with other valuable commodities that the region offers, such as perishables. April 22, 2023 saw the successful first freighter flight in WestJet's airline history take off, kicking off a rapidly expanding network of pure cargo services, complementing its long experience in belly freight operations.

Jettainer provides highly efficient and reliable ULD (Unit Load Device) management service to WestJet, with a fleet of more than 1,000 containers and pallets for baggage and freight. The container fleet has consisted predominantly of lightweight AKE units and has now been expanded to include freighter specific main deck containers. Additional equipment needed at short notice has flexibly been supplied via the lease&fly service.

Airwayz teams up with FlightOps to provide state-of-the-art drone management systems



Tel Aviv, Israel: Airwayz, a dynamic UTM/USSP provider, announced its partnership with FlightOps, a company specializing in advanced UAVOS (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operating Systems) solution.

The integration between FlightOps flight automation software and Airwayz' dynamic and robust UTM system will allow drone operators to automate drone management and will be used for the first time during the second phase of the Israel National Drone Initiative (INDI2).

The companies said their collaboration marks a significant step forward towards commercially viable U-Spaces. With advanced, automated drone management, a secure and reliable environment is

ensured for drone operations. Removing manual operations delivers U-Spaces with unparalleled safety, control, and efficiency. With both companies committed to automated multi-drone flight, the seamless integration of their systems promises to deliver an innovative solution with the potential to transform the drone industry.

"The changes to regulation in Europe mean there's a huge opportunity to implement commercial U-Spaces across myriad sectors," said FlightOps CEO Shay Levy. "FlightOps and Airwayz have worked together to integrate a solution that makes those U-Spaces not only possible, but safe, efficient and profitable."

FlightOps is one of the first companies to offer UAVOS in Europe. The recent EASA regulation changes in January 2023 regarding U-Space adoption in Europe have unlocked the opportunity to implement such innovative systems. Prior to the regulation change, there was limited need for UAVOS. However, with the accelerated U-Space adoption, UAVOS is pivotal to make them commercially viable.

"We believe the future of drone operations is all about automation and this partnership will really help to push that forward. With Airwayz and FlightOps joining forces, we're confident that we can push the boundaries of what's possible with drone technology," said Eyal Zor, CEO of Airwayz.



FedEx launches FedEx Innovation Lab to fuel digital capabilities for What's Next

Hong Kong SAR, China: FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) has launched FedEx Innovation Lab (FIL) to cultivate and collaborate with rising early-stage digital start-ups in the key market of India as well as the wider region.

FIL will make early-stage investments in these partnerships and bring additional value in terms of capabilities and speed to market to start-up firms through the FedEx network, resources, and global customer base. These collaborations will help expand FedEx advanced digital capabilities globally as it continues to evolve its operations and product offerings to meet the needs of the modern supply chain.

FIL's first investment is in Mad Street Den, a computer vision and Artificial Intelligence (AI) company that is a leader in enterprise AI solutions. The start-up's AI platform enables marketing, product and technology teams to improve and optimize efficiencies. Their products are deployed across several industries, including retail, healthcare, finance, media and entertainment, education, and more.

"Innovation is embedded in our business strategy. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, the launch of FIL is another exciting step in creating What's Next for our customers. We are committed to using advanced technology and data-driven insights to create smarter supply chains with differentiated offerings to deliver greater value and experience for customers," said Kawal Preet, president, Asia Pacific, Middle East, and Africa (AMEA) region, FedEx Express.

FIL is looking for more collaborations to help create smart logistics for all. FIL's primary focus is India, which has progressed in the ranks of the Global



Innovation Index and is the primary focus for FIL providing a rich pipeline of early-stage digital logistics firms from which FedEx can curate a meaningful portfolio of partners. The wider region is also a hotbed of technological innovation and partnership opportunities.

"India is now home to the world's third largest start up ecosystem and at the core of innovation strategies for global technology leaders which makes it an ideal market for the FedEx Innovation Lab to build technology-driven partnerships," said Kami Viswanathan, senior vice president, FedEx Express, Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Africa region.

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DOHA, Qatar: Qatar Airways Cargo, in partnership with RwandAir, launched in May its operations at the Kigali Africa Hub, signaling its planned expansion in the continent to meet its growing demand for more air transportation services amid projected economic growth of up to 5% over the next decade.

Qatar Airways Cargo's Moved by People Boeing 777 freighter landed at Kigali International Airport on May 3. In the company of local dignitaries, freight forwarders, partners, and customers, Qatar Airways Cargo's Chief Officer Guillaume Halleux, and Yvonne Makolo, Chief Executive Officer of RwandAir.

The Boeing 777 aircraft will fly from Doha to Kigali, twice a week. Since March, Qatar Airways Cargo has created an intra-Africa service between Kigali and Lagos (three times per week), and a weekly service from Istanbul via Doha to Kigali, all operated by an Airbus A310 aircraft. New destinations from Kigali will be announced soon.

In the run-up to the Kigali Cargo Hub launch, QAS Cargo, a subsidiary of Qatar Airways, provided consultancy support to RwandAir Cargo to help improve its cargo handling performance. A team from QAS Cargo visited the cargo handling facilities and presented RwandAir with a detailed action

Qatar Airways Cargo launches Kigali Africa Hub in partnership with RwandAir

plan for operational improvements and handling performance.

The team is now working together on a future roadmap, including a proposed improvement plan for its warehouse infrastructure, which will form part of a long-term strategic plan for the cargo division of RwandAir.

"Africa is one of the world's fastest growing economies, yet for it to develop to its full potential requires investment in logistics infrastructures. Qatar and Rwanda have long-enjoyed bilateral trade agreements, with both Qatar Airways and Qatar Investment Authority having previously invested in Kigali International Airport and RwandAir. It was therefore a logical step that Qatar Airways Cargo supports RwandAir in its cargo ambitions," said Guillaume Halleux, Chief Officer Cargo at Qatar Airways.

"Our customers will benefit from both a reliable intra-African network through our Kigali hub, as well as enhanced service levels and cost synergies. We are proud to partner with RwandAir in establishing Kigali as the Central African hub in preparation for the Next Generation of air cargo on this fast-growing continent," he added.

Qatar Airways Cargo currently serves 28 cities in Africa with a mixture of freighter and belly-hold services, carrying up to 2,800 tonnes to and from Africa.

Kale Logistics Solutions unveils report on sustainability at airports

Mumbai, India: Kale Logistics Solutions, a global leader in IT solutions for logistics industry, has released its report on airport sustainability titled "Kale Shaping Sustainability at Airports" on the sidelines of the recently concluded Air Cargo Europe 2023 and transport logistic co-located events in Munich, Germany.

Kale said it conducted an industry-wide study to understand the impact of technology on airports and its allied community sustainability outcomes. The global study measured improvements at airport level on operational efficiency, visibility, truck congestion, carbon emissions and physical paper utility.

As per the report, technology can save \$9 billion for the industry with approximately 16,000 gallons of carbon emissions being cut per airport. Cargo Community platforms have the potential to save 2000-3000 gallons of fuel being saved with lower truck wait times annually at an airport and a hectare of forest saved every year with paperless operations.

"Sustainability matters more than ever, our technology enabled strategy is helping power the logistics industry to march forward on the path of sustainability," said Amar More, CEO and Co-Founder of Kale Logistics Solutions.

"The study's promising outcome gives us hope that the industry is moving in the right direction.



Some exciting facts mentioned in this report will surprise industry patrons and stakeholders. There is no other better platform than Messe München's Air Cargo Europe to bring out these findings. Team Kale is excited to launch the valuable insights gathered from this study," he added.

Kale's Cargo Community System, Cargo Management System, and other point solutions have delivered carbon-neutral operations across more than 100 airports and ports globally.

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DP World launches direct freight service between UAE and Iraq

Dubai, UAE: DP World, a leading provider of global supply chain solutions, launched on 22 May the first direct freight service between the UAE and Iraq to make the flow of goods between the two countries faster, safer and more efficient.

The service caters for what the industry calls "unaccompanied trailers" – trailers which can be transported by sea without the driver and truck cab travelling alongside them. Instead, the trailer is left at the quay side at the port by the driver and is then pulled on and off the ship alone.

This is the first service of its kind in the UAE and runs under the name of P&O Maritime Transports – a DP World company. The service takes approximately 36 hours to travel between Jebel Ali Port in the UAE and Umm Qasr Port in southern Iraq. It offers a new route between the two countries for road trailers, alleviating challenges faced by customers using cross-border land transport, which can take up to 14 days.

Unaccompanied trailers are loaded on to roll-on, roll-off (RORO) freight vessels, leaving the driver and cab behind at the port. Once the trailer reaches Umm Qasr Port, an Iraqi truck can drive it to its final destination anywhere in the country. Once delivered, the empty trailer is then returned to Umm Qasr and shipped by to Jebel Ali.

Until now, goods transported by road from the UAE to Iraq must be transloaded – a time consuming exercise of transferring cargo from the original truck to a locally-licensed vehicle. It is also risky, exposing the cargo in terms of damage, contamination and security.

DP World's unaccompanied trailer service allows cargo owners and logistics companies to load a UAE-plated trailer in their local warehouse, ship it securely to Iraq and get the same trailer back,



without the cargo having to change hands along the route.

This is especially useful for transporting palletised or project cargo – large, heavy duty, or complex pieces of equipment, due to the greater payload capacity of road going trailers. Purpose-built RORO freight vessels allow customers greater flexibility in the planning and movement of over-dimensional packages on low-bed and heavy-axle trailers. This generates significant cost savings versus traditional break bulk operations, as the cargo loaded on board a trailer is available to be delivered directly on site in Iraq.

Jesper Kristensen, Group Chief Operating Officer, DP World Marine Services, said: "The launch of this new route is a step change in our service offering in the UAE. It is a great example of our customer-focused approach at DP World, using innovative and tailored solutions to enable the flow of goods. Iraq's economy is growing rapidly, but until now it relied on transit through its neighbours for its import and export needs. Our new direct service starts to address this, opening a new more efficient trade route for the country."

The first customer to use the route was the ADSO Group, a UAE-based logistics firm. Its General Manager Riaz Karmali, commented, "The new service is ground-breaking and delivers great logistical efficiencies across our operations. We benefit from cost-savings by reducing our time spent on the road and crossing borders. Plus, the service provides a more sustainable solution to us, and by extension to our customers. The reliability and expertise of DP World means we have full trust that our shipments are handled with the utmost care."

Agility reports KD 15.3m net profits for Q1 2023



KUWAIT: Agility, a long-term investor and operator in supply chain services, infrastructure, and innovation, reported its first quarter 2023 net profit earnings totalled KD 15.3 million (about US\$ 50 million), or 6 fils per share, an increase of 20% over the same period in 2022.

Agility's EBITDA increased 78.1% to KD 60.4 million (about US\$ 197 million) and revenue grew 142.7% to KD 320.5 million (over US\$1 billion).

On a like-for-like basis -- excluding the performance of Menzies Aviation and HG Storage International, which were acquired in August 2022

-- Agility's EBITDA increased 30% to KD 44 million, and revenue grew 17%.

"Agility's first quarter results reflect the healthy growth in our controlled businesses. Two of our large 2022 acquisitions – Menzies and HG Storage International – contributed to Q1 earnings for the first time. On the investment side, equity markets improved in Q1 which was reflected in our investments. That said, we continue to look beyond short-term movement in equity markets, focusing instead on the strategic value, growth and returns that these investments can deliver for our shareholders over the long term," said Agility Vice Chairman Tarek Sultan.

"Like all global businesses, we view ongoing inflation, high interest rates, currency volatility and other factors as reasons for continued caution about the near-term economic outlook. We are also closely watching the Kuwait land contracts issue. Even so, we are excited by the strategic transformation that has taken place in Agility since 2021. We believe we are positioned to grow and drive value for our shareholders, customers, employees and communities as we evolve further," he added.

Agility's controlled businesses are the businesses the company controls and operates and whose performance is consolidated and reported through Agility's profit and loss statement. In Q1, the combined EBITDA of our controlled businesses was KD 56.8 million on revenue of KD 320.5 million, increases of 55% and 142.5%, respectively, over Q1 2022.



Global container ports continue to recover from pandemic-era disruptions, yet more scope for efficiency gains remain

Among the report highlights are China's Yangshan port, which topped the ranking despite periods of heavy disruption caused by typhoons and various other factors in 2022.

Looking beyond Yangshan Port, Middle East and North Africa ports performed well again this year, with three ports from the region finishing in the top five: Port of Salalah in Oman ranked 2nd, Khalifa Port in Abu Dhabi took 3rd, and Tanger Med ranked 4th.

Ports in Latin America showed improved performance over 2022 with the Colombian Port of Cartagena taking 5th place overall and Ecuador's Port of Posorja ranking 19th.

In Southeast Asia, the Port of Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia rose to 6th place this year, with Vietnam's Cai Mep 12th and Singapore port 18th.

In 16th place, the Port of Algeciras in Spain is the highest ranked port in Europe. Wilmington, North Carolina (44th) and the Port of Virginia (52nd) are the top ranked ports in North America.

The Port of Berbera, which ranked 144th, was the highest-ranking port in Sub-Saharan Africa. Many ports in the region continue to experience excessive vessel turnaround time, a persistent risk for supply chain disruption.

"Improving port efficiency is essential for unlocking Africa's growth and development," said Martin Humphreys, Lead Transport Economist at the World Bank. "Africa's ports are vital gateways for trade and commerce, and efficient operation contributes to food security. Their efficient operation is a key determinant in whether Africa achieves its economic potential."

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Operational conditions at global ports have improved significantly following the unprecedented levels of disruption triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the third edition of the global Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), published by the World Bank.

Globally, ports are continuing to clear backlogs, but additional scope for efficiency gains remain. Further digitalization of port processes and modernization of port infrastructure would improve productivity, customer service and emissions reductions, the data suggest.

Developed by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence, the third edition of the CPPI is a data-based comparable index that ranks 348 global container ports according to their efficiency, measured by the elapsed time between when a ship reaches a port to its departure from the berth having completed its cargo exchange. The ranking is intended to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement for the benefit of key stakeholders in global trade, including government, shipping lines, port and terminal operators, shippers, logistics companies and consumers.



Lufthansa Cargo and CHAMP Cargosystems commit to adopt ONE Record as an open data sharing standard

Munich, Germany: Lufthansa Cargo and CHAMP Cargosystems jointly announced at the recently concluded transport logistic, the largest trade fair of its kind held in Munich, that the companies will actively drive the transition towards ONE Record as an open data sharing standard.

ONE Record is a modern and free data sharing standard for the transportation industry. It is developed in a collaborative effort of the industry, orchestrated by IATA, to overcome the limitations of the current data exchange system. After years of piloting and partial operational implementation, ONE

Record is finally ready for rollout on a broader scale.

To support a widespread adoption of a modern data sharing, both companies commit to implement the ONE Record standard within their respective IT infrastructures as basis for interchanging data via 1R in the future.

As a first step to modernize the industry's data exchange infrastructure, both companies plan to providing an open, ONE Record-based shipment tracking API later this year. Beyond this, both companies commit to implementing the fundamental capability of processing shipment data via ONE Record.

"Data is crucial to our industry's success, but we have been hindered by outdated data formats and legacy infrastructure for too long. ONE Record has the potential to revolutionize the way we share information. It opens the door for a fundamental production optimization based on high quality data sharing," said Ashwin Bhat, CEO of Lufthansa Cargo.

Chris McDermott, CEO of CHAMP Cargosystems, said, "CHAMP is committed to accelerate the adoption of IATA ONE Record across the transportation industry worldwide. We believe that this open data sharing standard will break down the silos of information and improve operational efficiency thanks to better data accuracy and completeness."

Lufthansa Cargo and CHAMP encourage all partners and customers of the supply chain to join this journey towards modernizing the transportation industry.



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"Recognizing the demand for an Asia-Latin gateway, we set our vision to become the top gateway for Asia-Latin traffic, encompassing both passenger and cargo services. Remarkably, we achieved this vision."

John Ackerman
Executive Vice President, DFW Airport

By Mohammed Irshad



Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), once met with skepticism, has emerged as a global aviation powerhouse over the past five decades. As the airport gears up to commemorate its 50th anniversary in 2024, it stands as a testament to visionary decision-making and remarkable progress.

Positioned strategically between the bustling cities of Dallas and Fort Worth in the oil and gas-rich state of Texas in the United States, DFW Airport operates under a unique governance structure, differentiating itself from traditional city-controlled airports. With a management board composed of experts from diverse backgrounds, the airport operates more like a corporation, enabling agile decision-making and contributing to its ongoing success.

DFW Airport has played a pivotal role in propelling the economic prosperity of the Dallas-Fort Worth region. From its modest beginnings, the airport has transformed into a sprawling international hub, boasting an impressive seven runways and surpassing many renowned airports in capacity. The airport's continuous growth and global connections have fueled the region's diverse economy, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between DFW and the local community.

Last year, DFW Airport secured its position as the world's second busiest airport in terms of passenger traffic—an accolade highlighting its immense influence not only within the Dallas-Fort Worth area but also on the global stage.

As DFW embarks on its milestone 50th anniversary, it looks ahead with optimism and ambition. With expansion plans, innovative initiatives, and a commitment to excellence, DFW Airport aims to solidify its status as a premier international airport, shaping the future of aviation for years to come.

Air Cargo Update recently had the privilege of conducting an insightful interview with two distinguished individuals from DFW Airport. John Ackerman, the Executive VP of DFW, and Milton De La Paz, the Vice President Airline Relations and Cargo at DFW, provided valuable insights into the airport's journey, its unique governance structure, and its ambitious plans for the future.

Managing High Demand and Expanding Cargo Operations at DFW Airport

According to John Ackerman, Executive VP of DFW, the airport employs a well-structured process for managing high demand on the passenger side. He explains, "On the passenger side, we have a well-structured process that involves analyzing markets where we currently lack service. Through a scoring system, we prioritize which markets to focus on, allowing us to allocate our resources effectively."

When it comes to cargo operations, Ackerman highlights the often-neglected nature of cargo management at many U.S. airports. However, at DFW Airport, John explains, "When Milton joined DFW Airport about a year before me, he recognized the potential and expressed interest in cargo operations. When I arrived, we had discussions and formulated a strategic plan for cargo."

DFW Airport underwent a comprehensive strategic planning process, assessing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the cargo sector. Ackerman emphasizes the vision they set, stating, "Recognizing the demand for an Asia-Latin



"Our advanced cloud technology ensures seamless data sharing and secure information exchange with blockchain integration. Our cargo team actively collaborates with agencies, providing advanced notice for efficient processing and documentation."

- Milton De La Paz
Vice President Airline Relations
and Cargo, DFW Airport

gateway, we set our vision to become the top gateway for Asia-Latin traffic, encompassing both passenger and cargo services. Remarkably, we achieved this vision."

The airport's proximity to Mexico played a crucial role in its cargo operations. John elaborates, "DFW Airport's proximity to Mexico, particularly the manufacturing hub in the northern part of the country, played a significant role in our cargo operations. We witnessed substantial traffic with goods being trucked from Mexico City and other regions in Mexico and then flown out of DFW."

Identifying e-commerce, perishable goods, and time-sensitive items as rapidly growing verticals, Ackerman states, "As we examined the types of products to target, it became evident that e-commerce, perishable goods, and time-sensitive items such as fresh produce and agricultural products were experiencing rapid growth. Consequently, we directed our efforts towards these specific verticals during the initial stages of our cargo strategy."

Revitalizing Industries

DFW Airport's impact on the automotive and pharmaceutical sectors has been transformative, elevating its status as a premier cargo hub while bolstering the regional economy. Through strategic infrastructure development and industry partnerships, DFW Airport continues to attract global players and foster growth in these pivotal sectors.

Ackerman highlighted the region's thriving automotive business, even before Toyota's arrival, stating, "Prior to Toyota's establishment, we saw a significant volume of automobiles originating from northern Mexico, crossing the border to Asia and vice versa. These vehicles were assembled using regional components."

Toyota's presence functioned as a catalyst, enticing its suppliers to join the local ecosystem. Ackerman explained, "Toyota's entry drove additional growth by attracting its suppliers to be part of the ecosystem. These were the specific verticals we focused on, evaluating our capabilities and resources comprehensively."

To demonstrate its commitment to cargo operations, DFW Airport invested its own resources, including a significant portion of certification expenses. Ackerman explained, "To dispel skepticism, Milton proposed the airport should bear a significant portion of the certification expenses. This demonstrated our dedication. Obtaining the CEIV certification and enhancing perishable handling capabilities solidified our credibility."

Through infrastructure enhancements and collaborative partnerships, DFW Airport has emerged as a hub for the automotive and pharmaceutical industries, driving economic growth and paving the way for future success.

Strategy Partnerships: dnata and Menzies Aviation

The strategic partnerships with dnata and Menzies Aviation have proven highly beneficial for both companies and DFW Airport. Ackerman provides insights into these collaborations and their positive outcomes.

Regarding the partnership with dnata, Ackerman underscores the significance of their involvement in perishable facilities. He explains, "Partnering with dnata, a globally renowned company known for excellence, instantly provided us with credibility and advantages. Branding the facility solely as a DFW managing facility, given our relative newness, wouldn't have garnered the same recognition. dnata has been an outstanding partner, and their facility consistently performs exceptionally well, often operating at full



"While many airports adopt the management company approach, we have chosen a different strategy. We take responsibility for developing and owning the cargo buildings ourselves, actively seeking world-class companies to handle operations within them. By owning the infrastructure and partnering with top-notch operators, we believe we can achieve optimal results and better serve our cargo community and airline partners."

capacity. This collaboration has opened new opportunities for us in the perishable pharma business."

Moving to the partnership with Menzies Aviation, Ackerman addresses the need for strategic oversight and control over cargo buildings. He notes, "Previously, all our cargo buildings were controlled by a third-party developer, limiting our control and strategic oversight. Our concern was that these third parties prioritized rent collection over selecting the right handlers, ground support equipment (GSE), and cool chain facilities."

To address this, DFW Airport initiated the 19th Street project, shifting its approach. "Rather than solely leasing to a developer, we took matters into our own hands, spearheading the development ourselves. This gave us direct control over cargo operations and enhanced visibility. It demonstrates our commitment to creating a thriving cargo community aligned with our strategic goals," said Ackerman.

Regarding the role of DFW Airport, Ackerman clarifies its position as neither just an airport nor a management company. He explains, "While many airports adopt the management company approach, we have chosen a different strategy. We take responsibility for developing and owning the cargo buildings ourselves, actively seeking world-class companies to handle operations within them. By owning the infrastructure and partnering with top-notch operators, we believe we can achieve optimal results and better serve our cargo community and airline partners."

Streamlining Operations and Enhancing Collaboration

De La Paz provides insights into the technology-driven processes and collaboration at DFW Airport.

Explaining the technology-driven process, De La Paz highlights the implementation of the DFW Cloud platform to address challenges faced by other competitive airports. He states, "We wanted to take a proactive approach and tackle issues such as truck congestion. To address this, we implemented the DFW Cloud platform, inspired by Steven Polman's adoption of the Nallian Cloud at Brussels. After extensive research, we selected Nallian as our provider and adopted their platform, which includes a truck slot booking app to alleviate congestion."

In addition to addressing current challenges, DFW Airport recognizes the importance of preparing for future developments. De La Paz emphasizes the significance of their tenant selection process, stating, "To curate our tenant selection process, we conducted a rigorous Request for Information (RFI) procedure. We reached out to 12 different cargo



handlers and assembled an internal selection committee to evaluate their technological solutions, plans for manpower, and approach to emerging technologies. Our focus was on identifying companies whose vision aligned with ours, particularly emphasizing the implementation of cutting-edge technologies like AI and automation."

Regarding collaboration among stakeholders, De La Paz explains the platform facilitating coordination at the airport. He says, "Our cloud technology enables seamless data sharing across the entire airport ecosystem, making us the only airport in the United States utilizing this advanced cloud infrastructure. This platform incorporates blockchain technology to ensure secure and transparent information sharing among all parties involved."

Addressing customs and border protection, De La Paz highlights the protocols established to facilitate the efficient processing of fresh players and commodities entering the airport. He mentions, "We have established protocols to ensure that any new players or commodities entering the airport are efficiently processed by relevant federal agencies, including customs and the Department of Agriculture. Our resolute cargo team actively facilitates this connectivity and collaborates with the necessary agencies, providing them with an advanced notice about incoming commodity types. This proactive approach allows the agencies to prepare accordingly, understand the required documentation, and expedite processing procedures."

Through these technology-driven processes and collaborative efforts, DFW Airport aims to enhance operational efficiency, promote transparency, and foster seamless coordination among stakeholders within the cargo ecosystem.

Pioneering Sustainability: Leading the Way to a Carbon-Neutral Future

Ackerman proudly highlights their sustainability initiatives, stating, "We are the largest carbon-neutral airport worldwide. Despite being located in Texas, a state known for its oil consumption, we have achieved carbon neutrality for several years and were the first carbon-neutral airport in North America."

Emphasizing their commitment to renewable

energy, Ackerman explains, "One of our key sustainability accomplishments is that 100% of our purchased electricity comes from a renewable generation source. Texas is the leading state in wind energy production, and we purchase wind energy to power not only the entire airport but also the headquarters of American Airlines. In fact, we held a reverse auction to select energy providers, and their competitive bids made wind energy more cost-effective than conventional sources."

Looking ahead, DFW Airport has set an ambitious goal, as Ackerman states, "We have set a target to become net zero by 2030, which is 20 years ahead of the industry's target of 2050. We have already identified all the necessary initiatives to achieve this goal, leveraging available technologies and practices."

Highlighting a significant project, Ackerman shares, "To reach net zero, one of our major projects involves constructing an electric central utility plant that will provide heating and cooling for the central terminal area. Currently, similar plants at airports are fueled both electricity and natural gas, but we are building a new plant that will be powered by electricity purchased through 100% renewable energy sources."

Despite the challenge of electrifying heavier vehicles, Ackerman remains optimistic, stating, "We are actively exploring solutions for our heavier vehicles that pose a challenge for electrification. However, we are confident that with the technologies available today, we can achieve our net-zero target by 2030."

DFW Airport's Future Investments: Enhancing Infrastructure and Embracing Technology

Ackerman outlines the significant investments planned for the next five years, stating, "We have several major investments on the horizon." He provides an overview of the key projects:

- **Terminal Expansion and Renovation:** Constructing a new terminal and renovating the existing one to accommodate growing travelers and enhance the passenger experience.
- **Runway Rehabilitation and Taxiway Construction:** Scheduled projects to maintain safety and efficiency, including runway rehabilitation and a new end-around taxiway.
- **The 19th Street Project:** Investing in additional buildings and expanding infrastructure to bolster cargo capabilities.
- **Expansion Opportunities:** Reserving greenfield sites adjacent to runways for future growth and flexibility.
- **Digital Twin Development:** Creating a comprehensive computer model of the airport for simulation and analysis, optimizing efficiency and decision-making.

Looking ahead, DFW Airport envisions becoming a digitally enabled airport, benefiting airline partners and customers through data-driven decisions. Its rapid growth, favorable business regulations, diverse economy, and dedicated support from academic and research institutions make it an attractive choice for long-term investments.

With a steadfast commitment to meeting evolving demands, DFW Airport's investments ensure seamless experiences for passengers and cargo operations, while enhancing infrastructure and embracing technology to stay at the forefront of the aviation industry.



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The perils of carrying Dangerous Goods on air

Transporting dangerous goods requires safety, precision as well as highly-skilled-and-trained people for the job. Any deviation to the rules could pose danger to both the shipment and the crew, which sometimes lead to death. Experts say more trainings and blending technology to the system are needed to ensure the safety of everyone on board.

By R. Chandrakanth

In July last year, a cargo aircraft, Antonov An-12, transporting munitions from Serbia to Bangladesh crashed in northern Greece, killing all eight crew onboard. The plane was carrying around 11.5 tons of mines, illuminating mortar shells and training shells.

In April of 2013, a National Airlines Flight 102 (Boeing 747-400) crashed, killing all seven people on board, after taking off from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The freighter was loaded with five heavy armoured vehicles. Investigation revealed that improperly secured cargo broke free during the take-off and rolled to the back of the cargo hold, crashing through the rear pressure bulkhead and disabling the rear flight control systems.

In 2019, there were six cargo freighter crashes wherein 16 people died, according to data from the Aviation Safety Network. This time too, it was Antonov An-12, carrying automobile spare parts between Spain and Turkey, which crashed in Lviv, Ukraine, where a refuelling stop was scheduled.

In another 2013 incident, a Singapore Airlines Airbus A330-300 caught fire in the cargo hold, while on a flight from Singapore to Dhaka and had to be diverted to Bangkok and the fire doused on landing. Though nothing major happened, the Air Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) of Singapore, observed "While the presence of ethanol, an ignitable liquid which could have fuelled the fire, was found by the investigators, the heat source that was needed to ignite the ethanol could not be determined."

Nevertheless, the AAIB analysed: "Although the three declared dangerous goods were not involved in the fire in the aft cargo compartment, information regarding the presence, location and nature of the dangerous goods is vital for a firefighting service to plan for response action. The effectiveness of the response could be compromised without such information."

Safety is paramount

With safety of passengers, cargo, aircraft and the response team being paramount, the stakeholders in the supply chain have to be doubly sure on how dangerous goods are handled and transported, all in strict

compliance of guidelines of carriage.

One critical factor in the movement of dangerous goods is the clear communication along the supply chain. Dangerous goods run the risk of creating a host of problems, sometimes fatal, hence, there is a need for updated standard operating procedures. In fact, there has to be preventable practices before exposing the ground handlers and other key staff to such SOPs. This calls for training, re-training and dynamic updating of safety mechanisms.

Training in the entire supply chain is of paramount importance as a high percentage of accidents involving dangerous goods are caused by human error. Every individual in the supply chain must be aware of his or her responsibilities as well as legal requirements, fully aware that they are handling and storing dangerous goods.

Air cargo growth up, challenges too

This is a humongous task but has to be carried out, however, big or small the dangerous goods may be. It is humongous for the simple reason that every year over 1.25 million dangerous goods shipments are transported by air, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). With air cargo growth predicted at 4.9% every year over the next five years, the number of dangerous goods shipments will rise significantly. IATA helps identify the risks and works with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to amend the regulations providing stakeholders with the most current guidelines on how to handle and ship dangerous goods safely.

Hazmat classified into nine categories

IATA's 'Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) Manual states "Dangerous goods (also known as hazardous materials or hazmat) are articles or substances which are

capable of posing a hazard to health, safety, property or the environment and which are shown in the list of dangerous goods in the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations or which are classified according to those regulations.”

The United Nations has classified dangerous goods into nine classes and they are: Class 1 – Explosives; Class 2 – Gases; Class 3 – Flammable liquids; Class 4 – Flammable solids, substances liable to spontaneous combustion; substances which, in contact with water emit flammable gases; Class 5 – Oxidizing substances and organic peroxides; Class 6 – Toxic and infectious substances; Class 7 – Radioactive material; Class 8 – Corrosives and Class 9 – Miscellaneous dangerous substances and articles, including environmentally hazardous substances. Some examples of dangerous goods are aerosols, lithium batteries, infectious substances, fireworks, dry-ice, gasoline powered engines and machinery, lighters and paint.

Separate regulations for Lithium batteries

One of the biggest challenges before the air transport sector is the transportation of lithium batteries as the lithium-on battery chain, according to a McKinsey Battery Insights report, is growing at over 30% annually from 2022 to 2030, when it would reach a value of over \$400 billion and a market size of 4.7TWh. Mind you, lithium batteries are the most commonly transported dangerous goods due to which IATA has created a unique manual geared specifically to shippers of lithium batteries. The IATA Lithium Battery Shipping Regulations (LBSR) is what shippers should adhere to.

Not just adherence, there needs to be constant training for all persons across the entire supply chain who prepare, offer, accept and handle dangerous goods.

IATA states that safety and nothing but safety is the driving force behind ensuring the regulations are met by adequately training all parties (shippers, freight forwarders, cargo acceptance agents,



ground handlers, cabin crew members and anyone who has links in the supply chain) involved in the transport of dangerous goods.

IATA's dangerous goods regulations are rules outlined in an easy-to-read manual that is based on the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) instructions for the safe transport for dangerous goods. While ICAO updates its regulations every two years, IATA changes take place year to year.

Process consistency, automation, reliable data crucial

Last September, IATA and Labelmaster, and Hazardous Cargo Bulletin announced the 2022 Global Dangerous Goods Confidence Outlook which stressed on the need for greater process consistency, increased automation, and more reliable data to facilitate the safe and secure transport of dangerous goods.

“Global supply chain disruptions have put even more pressure on those professionals and companies responsible for shipping goods safely and compliantly. While there are many areas of improvement over the last year, the survey demonstrated widespread awareness of the need to improve DG processes, training, technology, and infrastructure,” said Robert Finn, Vice President, Labelmaster.

“The air transport industry handles over 1.25 million DG shipments per year. The growth of e-commerce and proliferation of lithium batteries in global supply chains are two indicators that the number of DG shipments will grow. To handle them safely, we must further improve

compliance with global standards. Almost any item can be shipped safely, provided we have well-trained professionals following globally agreed standards and supported by the right technology and infrastructure,” said Nick Careen, IATA's Senior Vice President Operations, Safety and Security.

The survey said there is a need for increased compliance as 39% of those surveyed said they only adhered to minimum requirements, while 37% said their organizations go beyond what is required by regulation. A whopping 82% believe their organization's DG investment cannot support future regulations or supply chain changes and about 25% believe their organization's current infrastructure is equipped to meet future needs.

The survey made four key recommendations – Technology - automation of dangerous goods operations and establishing reliable processes across the supply chain; Training - utilizing gamification or 3D training experiences to better train and recertify employees; Packaging - utilizing new packaging solutions to further improve efficiency, safety and compliance; and Regulations – using digital regulatory materials to keep professionals updated.

Careen added: “Companies do not have to reinvent the wheel. IATA has digital solutions to improve compliance. DG AutoCheck, for example, automates the complex and time-consuming manual task of checking that each shipper's declaration is compliant and a package is correctly marked, labelled, and packaged. This streamlines processes and enhances safety.”



Airport digitalization:

Unlocking efficiency, visibility and sustainability

By Mohammed Irshad

The digital revolution has significantly impacted the aviation industry, leading to an immersive and transformative experience at airports worldwide.

By embracing digital and smart technologies, airports are revolutionizing their operations, enhancing efficiency, improving visibility, and driving sustainability.

In this article, we explore the perspectives of two industry experts—Jaisey Yip, the Vice President of Cargo Business Division at Changi Airport Group, and Andrew Moakes, Co-founder and COO of Evitado Technologies.

Their insights shed light on the value digitalization brings to both passengers and cargo operations, recent technological advancements at airports, the management of different verticals through digitalization, sustainability initiatives, challenges in adopting digital technologies, and the future trends shaping airport digitalization.

Recent Technological Advancements at Airports

Yip, the Vice President of Cargo Business Division at Changi Airport Group, defined digitalization as a means to improve productivity, efficiency, and visibility in the air cargo industry.

By unlocking capacity, enhancing productivity, and improving supply chain visibility, digitalization addresses challenges such as labor shortage, land scarcity, and increasing demands from cargo owners and shippers, she said. Adding, the right technology enables speed to market, cost efficiency, agility, flexibility, and environmental sustainability.

In terms of cargo terminals, airports have been implementing new technologies to create smart cargo facilities. These advancements focus on improving visibility and automation.

Warehouse management systems integrated with IoT technologies like RFID enable better tracking and condition monitoring of cargo, for instance. While artificial intelligence and machine learning provide predictive and preventive analytics. Air cargo community systems facilitate data sharing and collaboration among stakeholders, streamlining processes, and improving productivity.

Moakes, the Co-founder of Evitado Technologies, recognizes the inefficiencies in airport operations and the potential for optimization through digital solutions. The company is focused on reducing working hours required for aircraft movements, aiding in correct positioning, hangar bay stacking, and digitizing pre-tow inspections to eliminate manual reports.



Andrew Moakes

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Moakes highlights the impact of data analytics, IoT, and AI in shaping the future of airport operations. These technologies provide valuable insights for operational efficiencies, such as identifying risks during aircraft towing operations and optimizing turn-around processes. Real-time decision-making using AI can reduce turnaround time and alleviate bottlenecks.

Yip emphasizes the importance of industry collaboration to promote change and facilitate digitalization. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the significance of digital initiatives in the aviation industry. By rallying the community around shared objectives and vision, stakeholders become more open to embracing change, leading to accelerated implementation and the resolution of industry-specific challenges through digital solutions.



Jaisey Yip

Efficiency and Sustainability

Yip highlights the use of RFID technology for improved visibility of cargo movements within cargo terminals. Implementing truck dock slot booking systems enhances visibility into landside activities.

According to Yip, the commitment to sustainability at Changi Airport is unwavering. It aims to achieve zero carbon growth by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

To fulfill these goals, Changi Airport Group actively collaborates with airline partners to transition to sustainable aviation fuel, promotes the use of electric vehicles and equipment, and implements energy-efficient measures such as solar panel installations in buildings. Additionally, in the cargo sector, Changi Airport works closely with Pharma.Aero on a green air pharma logistics project, with the objective of reducing air transportation emissions and establishing a green pharma corridor.

Overcoming Challenges and Embracing the Future

According to Moakes, the tight schedules and budgets of busy airports make it challenging to adopt new technology. However, creating opportunities for testing and adopting new technologies, establishing innovation budgets, and forming long-term partnerships with technology companies are key to overcoming these challenges.

Looking ahead, Moakes believes that AI-driven and autonomous solutions on the airside will drive significant improvements for airports, airlines, ground handlers, and passengers. Evitado Technologies aims to position itself as a leader in autonomous airside solutions, leveraging controlled airport environments to enhance efficiency and drive operational excellence.

As airports continue their digital transformation journey, the integration of advanced tools like data analytics, IoT devices, and artificial intelligence will enhance performance monitoring, shape airport strategies, optimize operational efficiency, and redefine the passenger experience.

The relentless pursuit of digitalization is key to shaping the airports of the future, where seamless connectivity, data-driven decision-making, and enhanced security will redefine the passenger journey. Together, let us embark on this exciting journey of transforming airports into vibrant hubs of innovation, efficiency, and extraordinary experiences.



Emirates Group

reaps record \$32.6 billion revenue in 2022-23, up by 81% amid strong customer demand worldwide with pandemic travel restrictions removed

DUBAI, UAE: The Emirates Group, which include aviation powerhouse Emirates airline, dnata and Emirates SkyCargo, said its collective revenue rose to AED 119.8 billion (about US\$32.6 billion), up by 81 percent amid strong customer demand worldwide as travel restrictions have been removed.

Its strong financial performance during the period 2022-23 yielded a record annual profit of AED 10.9 billion (about US\$3 billion), enabling the Group to repay AED 3.0 billion (US\$ 817 million) of debt raised during COVID-19 crisis, partly ahead of maturity.

The Group's total workforce has also increased by 20% during the period to 102,379 employees, representing over 160 different nationalities.

Emirates received two new 777 freighter aircraft during the financial year. It also phased out 4 older aircraft comprising of 2 A380, 1 Boeing 777-300ERs and 1 Freighter. Its total fleet count at the end of March was 260 units, with a youthful average fleet age of 9.1 years.

According to the Emirates Group 2022-23 Annual Report, both Emirates and dnata saw significant revenue increases in 2022-23 as the Group expanded its air transport and travel-related operations following the removal of

nearly all pandemic-related restrictions around the world.

For the financial year ended 31 March 2023, the Emirates Group posted a record profit of AED 10.9 billion (US\$ 3.0 billion) compared with an AED 3.8 billion (US\$ 1.0 billion) loss for last year.

The Group's revenue was AED 119.8 billion (US\$ 32.6 billion), an increase of 81% over last year's results. The Group's cash balance was AED 42.5 billion (US\$ 11.6 billion), the highest ever reported, up 65% from last year mainly due to strong demand across its core business divisions and markets.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates airline and Group, said: "We're proud of our 2022-23 performance which is not only a full recovery, but also a record result. This achievement would not have been possible without HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, whose leadership has been critical to our success today and through the years. The architect of Dubai's progressive economic policies, HH Sheikh Mohammed is also the engine behind the Emirates Group's trajectory. Without his drive and support, Emirates will be half the size of what we are today."

"I'm proud of the Emirates Group's performance for 2022-23, and our contribution to the restoration of air transport and tourism across the markets we serve, including Dubai's astounding 97% year-on-year growth in international visitors for 2022. The Group is the biggest player in the UAE's aviation sector, which supports over 770,000 jobs and generates an estimated contribution to GDP of over US\$ 47 billion (AED 172.5 billion). With our growth plans, and in line with the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, we expect to significantly increase our contribution to the UAE's GDP over the next decade through direct and indirect employment, supply chain spending, tourism spend, and trade and commerce benefits from the movement of cargo," he added.

Emirates passenger volume up by 123%

Emirates carried 43.6 million passengers (up 123%) in 2022-23, with seat capacity up by 78%. The airline reports a Passenger Seat Factor of 79.5%, compared with last year's passenger seat factor of 58.6%; and a 7% increase in passenger yield to 37.5 fils (10.2 US cents) per Revenue Passenger Kilometre (RPKM), due to a change in cabin and route mix, fares and currency.

Emirates' total passenger and cargo capacity increased by 32% to 48.2 billion ATKMs in 2022-23, as the airline continued to reinstate passenger services across its network in line with the lifting of pandemic-related flight and travel restrictions.

In addition to launching services to Tel Aviv, Emirates relaunched flights to six destinations and increased operations to 62 cities across its network throughout the year to serve strong customer demand.

By 31 March 2023, the Emirates network comprised 150 destinations across six continents, including 9 cities served by its freighter fleet only. The airline also deployed its flagship A380 aircraft to even more cities during the year, bringing its A380 network to 43 destinations as of the end of the year's first quarter.

Enabling its customers access even more destinations, Emirates signed agreements with new codeshare partners in 2022-23 most notably with United Airlines and Air Canada, expanding the airline's connectivity in the Americas to over 200 new points, in addition to mutual frequent flyer programme benefits.

It also reinforced its strategic partnerships with Qantas and flydubai and added new interline and codeshare partners: AirlinK, AEGEAN, ITA Airways, Air Tanzania, Bamboo Airways, Batik Air, Philippine Airlines, Royal Air Maroc and Sky Express.

Emirates SkyCargo delivered solid performance despite challenging markets

Emirates SkyCargo delivered a solid performance, contributing 16% of the airline's revenue despite a reduction in available capacity as the aircraft that were temporarily converted into "mini freighters" during the pandemic returned to full passenger service.

In 2022-23, Emirates' cargo division reinforced its leadership in cool chain transport, building on the advanced expertise and infrastructure that made it the carrier of choice for the transport of temperature sensitive medicines during the pandemic, and other perishable items.

Emirates SkyCargo maintained its edge in the global airfreight industry by focusing its customers, bringing innovative solutions to the market, and leveraging its fleet and network capabilities. During the year, the cargo division signed commercial MoUs with United Airlines and Air Canada to expand its network reach and capacity for customers; introduced a new digital channel, WebCargo, for customers to directly access and book its flights for their cargo shipments; and launched Emirates Delivers UK, expanding its e-commerce shipping solution to UAE customers.

Emirates SkyCargo also deployed its expertise and capacity to transport relief goods to Pakistan, Turkey and Syria in partnership with Dubai's International Humanitarian City.

With steady air freight demand throughout the year, Emirates' cargo division reported a solid revenue of AED 17.2 billion (US\$ 4.7 billion). This was a 21% decline over last year's exceptional performance caused by the pandemic.

Freight yield per Freight Tonne Kilometre (FTKM) increased by 3% despite

more cargo capacity returned to the global market, but generally remained at high levels compared to the pandemic marketplace due to steady and strong demand.

Tonnage carried declined by 14% to reach 1.8 million tonnes, due to the reduction in available freighter capacity for the entire year with the reinstatement of more passenger services. At the end of 2022-23, Emirates' SkyCargo's total freighter fleet stood at 11 Boeing 777Fs

Humanitarian and Environmental Initiatives

Amongst its numerous environmental initiatives, a key highlight for Emirates was the successful conduct of a demonstration flight with 100% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in one engine of a Boeing 777.

This first-in-region initiative contributes to collective industry data and efforts to enable a future of 100% SAF flying. dnata in 2022-23 pledged to invest US\$ 100 million (AED 367 million) over 2 years, to improve environmental efficiency across its global business, supporting its goal to reduce its carbon footprint by 50% by 2030.

During the year, the Group supported various community and humanitarian initiatives across its markets including relief efforts for the floods in Pakistan and the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. It also continued to participate in innovation incubators, and support programmes that build a pipeline of skilled aviation talent and develop future solutions for the industry.

"We go into 2023-24 with a strong positive outlook and expect the Group to remain profitable. We will work hard to hit our targets while keeping a close watch on inflation, high fuel prices, and political and economic uncertainty," said Sheikh Ahmed.





IATA: Global aviation industry on track to recovery after pandemic with Middle East forecasts to lead the way

By Gemma Q. Casas



Middle East airports capacity expanding with infrastructure projects costing \$151 billion on the way to handle about 1.1 billion passengers by 2040. Abu Dhabi is reportedly spending \$3 billion to open the new terminal and Dubai restarting the expansion of the Al Maktoum International Airport

The three-day Airport Show, the world's largest annual airport event hosted by Dubai, closed on a high note with positive outlook in the foreseeable future for the global aviation industry amid its continued strong performance following the lifting of air travel restrictions.

Kashif Khalid, Regional Director for the Middle East and Africa of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), said the global aviation industry recovery is on track with a strong start to 2023.

"The global aviation industry is almost close to pre-pandemic level of 2019 numbers. Traffic is at approximately 88% of 2019 numbers. This means that we are almost at the pre-pandemic levels, and with the opening of China recently, we can expect to see the pre-2019 levels within the next few months," said Khalid at the Global Airport Leaders Forum (GALF), a co-located event at the Airport Show.

Based on IATA's analysis, the Middle East is leading the traffic numbers in terms of recovering globally at 93% of the pre-2019 levels and very soon Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia will cross the 100% full recovery. Annual growth in the region is forecasts at

4.2% through 2040.

"The Middle East is leading global recovery reaching 93% of the pre-2019 levels and very soon we will be forecasting that the Middle East, especially Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Saudi Arabia, will cross the 100% recovery. Full recovery in passenger traffic in the Middle East is expected in 2024 and will grow at 4.2% annually through 2040," he said.

Creating a world-class aviation ecosystem

Omar Bin Ghaleb, Deputy Director General of UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), underscored the need to create a world-class aviation ecosystem to keep up the momentum in the global aviation recovery.

"Our vision is to create a world-class aviation ecosystem that embraces cutting edge technology, fosters innovation, promotes sustainability and delivers an exceptional customer experience. To achieve this vision, we have made significant investments in modernizing our infrastructure, upgrading our regulatory framework and enhancing our operational capabilities," he said.

Adding, "Our industry is not without challenges from security threat, technology disruption, environmental concerns and evolving customer expectations. We must navigate rapidly in a changing landscape. We recognize the significance of aviation in our national development and we remain committed to positioning our airports and airlines in the forefront of global best practices. We have embraced digital transformation advanced technology such as artificial intelligence, data analytics and blockchain to improve efficiency, enhance safety personalize passenger service." Ibrahim Ahli, Deputy CEO of Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans), said with the guidance of the UAE leaders, the country has turned challenges into innovations.

"In recent years, our methods had evolved as challenges had been growing continuously post-pandemic. Dubai had overcome these challenges and become the hub of aviation and travelers in the shortest time ever. The challenges could be successfully faced under the determined vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and Ruler of Dubai, and the empowering leadership of H.H Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Emirate Airline and Group and Chairman of Dubai Air Navigation Services," said Ahli. "In fact, Dubai has always obtained a clear focus on the current challenges and foresighted the forthcoming new ones. We at dans are taking the lead in turning the challenges into innovations." Noaman Alsaleh, Acting Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, dans, spoke about the role of circular economy in air traffic management and the aviation ecosystem.

"The aviation industry has a crucial role to play in transitioning towards a more sustainable future. The circular economy is an economic system that prioritizes the use of renewable resources, the reduction of waste, and the reuse of materials. By adopting circular economy principles, the

aviation industry can reduce its environmental impact and create new economic opportunities," he said.

Crucial to global aviation recovery

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, who inaugurated the event, described Airport Show as a crucial event timed perfectly to accelerate the global aviation industry recovery.

"The construction of new airports and expansion and upgrading of existing facilities has gained pace to ensure airports meet the future demand as well as the needs and expectations of travelers," said Sheikh Ahmed.

The event organized by RX Global, held from May 9 to 11, 2023, drew more than 5,000 visitors. Airport Show displayed products and

including the host, UAE, showcased the latest innovative products and technologies to make the aviation industry safe and sustainable, enhance efficiency and passenger experience.

The co-located events ATC Forum, GALF, Airport Security Middle East and Women in Aviation Middle East Anniversary Conference were equally highly successful with active and constructive the participation of global experts and industry leaders.



Women in Aviation

The event, which coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Middle East chapter of the Women in Aviation (WIA), underscored the need to encourage more women participation in the global aviation industry.

A study by global management consultancy McKinsey across the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, based on interviews, found the key to empowering women in the 21 countries of the Middle East is not only to equip them with access to jobs but also to ensure they have the right support, experience and opportunities once they are working.

According to ICAO, airlines, airports and ANSPs alone employ about 3.5 million people globally. Aviation domain is getting increasing attention to attract women in several crucial and technical roles in airports, airlines and ANSPs in the Middle East, especially the UAE, the fast-rising global aviation hub.

Between 2023 and 2033, growth in air passenger and cargo traffic in the Middle East region is expected to outperform all other regions in the world.

The UAE will be needing 22,000 pilots and crew members by 2033, three years after its vibrant aviation industry reaches the AED323.6 billion mark. The UAE and Saudi Arabia together constitute 73 per cent of the total fleet size in the region. The UAE is the leading aviation investor, with nearly US\$136.1 billion of investment planned between 2023 and 2033, according to the latest market research report by Japan's Shibuya Data Count (SDKI).

"As the region in general and the UAE, in particular, sees explosive growth in aviation, we have to ensure more stakeholders come into the field and play a far more crucial role in attracting and retaining women in the civil aviation industry," said Mervat Sultan, President and Founder, Woman in Aviation Middle East Chapter who is one of the first women in the Arab world to obtain an FAA-GCAA flight dispatch license.

She added, "The aviation industry should now talk about how important is to hone the skills of women and how to facilitate proper education and training to the new generation. The pandemic has given us the opportunity to get into the market of new technology and we must make use of the educational institutions and training centers for enrolling more women in the aviation domain."



services from over 150 exhibitors from more than 60 countries. With its theme, 'Together in Innovating Future Sustainable Airports,' has proved that it is the world's largest annual airport industry B2B platform.

The 2023 Business Connect Program, part of the event, hosted more than 100 buyers representing 35 companies from more than 20 countries.

Exhibitors from the US, Italy, France, Germany, Denmark, Turkey, Netherlands, China, Belgium, Korea and Sweden and several other countries



IATA: Ground-handling industry must address issues on recruitment & retention, global standards and digitalization to keep up with the times

By Harshad Hussain B

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) recently concluded the 35th IATA Ground Handling Conference (IGHC) held in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, with industry experts agreeing that priorities should be focused in tackling issues on recruitment & retention, implementation of global standards and accelerating digitalization to keep up with the times and demands of a revived global aviation industry.

The event, sponsored by Etihad Airways, highlighted several significant initiatives put forth by IATA to address critical challenges and drive advancements in aviation safety and efficiency.

"It's going to be a busy peak Northern Hemisphere summer travel season for the aviation industry, and the ground handling sector will need to be ready. Short-term, we must act fast to prepare for increased traffic. Ensuring efficient onboarding of new employees and working with governments to reduce bottlenecks in security clearances is critical. Longer-term, more effective staff recruitment and retention, implementing global standards and accelerating digitalization and automation will be critical to build resilience and ensure sustainability," Monika Mejstrikova, IATA's Director of Ground Operations, said in a statement.

Effective Staff Recruitment and Retention

A recent IATA survey found that 37% of ground



handling professionals anticipated staffing shortages until the end of 2023 and beyond, and 60% felt they didn't have enough qualified staff to ensure smooth operations. Additionally, 27% of respondents feared that their current employees would leave soon.

"Creating a stable ground handling talent base is essential. And it can be achieved by making ramp work more attractive. We need to embrace automation to relieve staff from difficult and hazardous tasks, foster a culture of continuous learning and career growth and create a safe and inclusive environment for people where talents are nurtured," said Mejstrikova.

IATA outlined a series of initiatives to help alleviate labor shortages:

- Implementation of competency-based training, with more online assessments to improve speed and efficiency
- Mutual recognition of security training and employee background records among authorities, to expedite the recruitment process and reduce redundancy
- Automation of processes to relieve people from performing physically challenging tasks
- Promoting career development & rewarding years of training & skills

Global Standardization of Processes

Global standards are the foundation for safe and efficient operations. Two key tools for ground handlers are the IATA Ground Operations Manual (IGOM) and the IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO).

IGOM: IATA called for the ground handling industry to accelerate the global adoption of IGOM to ensure worldwide operational consistency and safety. To support this, IATA has launched the IGOM Portal. A user-friendly online platform where airlines and ground handlers can share the results of their gap analysis between company procedures and IGOM, offering a global benchmark for harmonization and driving efficiency. Over 140 airlines have already subscribed to its services and the Portal is now opening to ground handling service providers (GHSPs).

ISAGO: Close to 40 airports and regulators globally endorsed ISAGO to complement their monitoring/compliance, performance or licensing systems through cooperation agreements. IATA urged more governments to recognize ISAGO in their regulatory frameworks for oversight to deliver significant benefits, including greater harmonization, Safety Management System (SMS) implementation and reduction of duplicate audits.

ISAGO is an industry program designed to provide global oversight of ground-handling service providers (GHSPs) based on the standards outlined in IGOM. It has become the industry standard for auditing and certifying GHSPs, with over 3,000 audits conducted worldwide since its launch in 2008. The positive impact of ISAGO on ramp safety, ground damage reduction, and operational sustainability cannot be overstated. Over 195 organizations are currently part of the ISAGO Registry, with 324 accredited stations in 206 airports globally. More governments and airports are recognizing ISAGO as a vital component of their safety oversight programs.

Digitalization and Automation

Digitalization and automation are critical to improving both sustainability and efficiency and driving process improvements. IATA outlined three priorities:

1. Ramp Digitalization - IATA's Ground Operations Digitalization and Automation Working Group (GAD) has developed the Timestamps Turnaround (XTST) message to provide standardized communication and real-

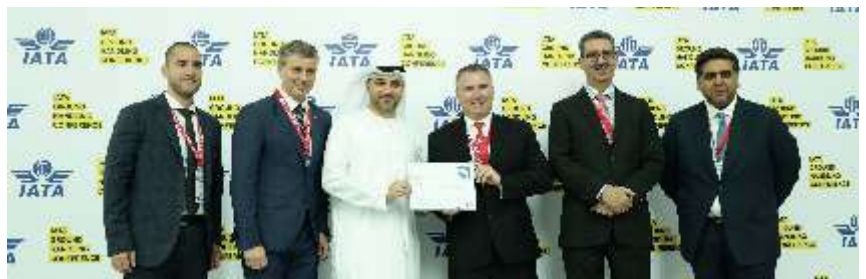
time network monitoring for airlines. Implementing the XTST standard can reduce ground handling delays by up to 5% globally.

2. Load Control Digitalization – IATA is pioneering the automation of load control, utilizing the new X565 digital standard to reduce workload, costs, and errors while enabling real-time updates.

3. GSE Automation - transitioning to enhanced ground support equipment (Enhanced GSE) potentially reducing ground damage costs by 42% and creating a safer environment. Autonomous GSE trials are already underway in over 15 countries. Transitioning to Enhanced GSE not only improves safety but also reduces GSE CO2 emissions by 1.8 million tonnes annually, contributing to a more sustainable industry.

IATA said it is developing a new checklist that mirrors IGOM and Airport Handling manual requirements. This checklist will enable remote documentation validation through the Operational Portal, providing a seamless and efficient audit process. By reducing duplicate audits, improving readiness, and enhancing standardization, these initiatives contribute to a safer and more efficient ground-handling industry.

IATA vows to continue leading the way in driving innovation and excellence in the ground-handling sector.





India's Mahindra Logistics Ltd.

sets up first international base in Dubai, eyes growth in the Middle East region

By R. Chandrakanth



Mahindra Logistics Warehouse in Dubai

Mahindra Logistics Ltd. (MLL), one of India's largest integrated logistics solutions providers, announced on May 11 the commencement of its cargo charter operations in the Middle East, headquartered in Dubai, its first international foray.

Though the company provides specialised cargo charter services around the world through its subsidiary V-Link Freight Services Pvt Ltd, this is the first time it has opened a dedicated cargo office to explore opportunities in the region.

MLL is part of India's Mahindra Group and provides technology enabled integrated solutions for 3PL, Express and cross-border supply chain management. The company provides freight forwarding and related value-added services, serves over 55 lanes across the world.

With this launch, the company will augment freight forwarding with cargo charter operations partnering with customers in electronics, consumer durables, pharma and engineering.

The choice of Dubai, UAE as the hub for its global charter operations



The firm is part of the Mahindra Group, founded in 1945 and is today one of the largest and most admired multinational federation of companies with 260,000 employees in over 100 countries.

bears strategic importance. Over the past few decades, UAE has emerged as India's third largest trading partner in the year 2021-22. Dubai has also emerged as a global and regional trading hub.

Mahindra Logistics will service the large Middle East region from its Dubai operations. As a neutral player entering the global air cargo charter business, the company will offer dedicated aircraft, enhanced transit time, and the expertise in end market solution development, integration with other logistics services and a strong technology interface.

Cross-border logistics business

Rampraveen Swaminathan, Managing Director & CEO, Mahindra Logistics, said, "In line with our vision of enhancing our services, we are pleased to launch our Cargo Charter operations, based in Dubai UAE. This also



marks the first international foray for Mahindra Logistics. With increasing complexity in global supply chains, cross border supply chain services have become critical to supply chain resilience. The business expands our cross-border logistics business, in addition to our current freight forwarding business, providing our customers enhanced service options. The UAE, and Dubai, provide us a great launchpad to develop the business.”

Saurav Chakraborty, Head – Global Cross Border Solutions at Mahindra Logistics Limited, commented, “We have chosen Dubai as the location for our air charter brokering business due to the unparalleled access and connectivity it provides. The charter business will be an independent division serving customers and partners across multiple vertical and geographies. We estimate this will significantly enhance our integrated solutions portfolio in line with our long-term business objectives”.

Over 400 plus customers

As an integrated 3PL service provider, Mahindra serves 400 plus corporate customers across various industries like automobile, engineering, consumer goods and e-commerce. It pursues an “asset-light” business model, providing customized and technology enabled solutions that span across the supply chain and people mobility services.

MLL is part of the Mahindra Group, one of the largest and most admired multinational federation of companies with 260,000 employees in over 100 countries. It enjoys a leadership position in farm equipment, utility

vehicles, information technology and financial services in India and is the world's largest tractor company by volume. It has a strong presence in renewable energy, agriculture, logistics, hospitality, and real estate.

Continued consolidation and growth

MLL has been growing consistently and the FY23 revenues went up by 24% year on year (YoY) at Rs. 5,128 Cr (about US\$ 608 million) EBITDA up 39% YoY. The company has over US\$ 3 million as profit after tax during the period, up from US\$ 1.8 million. The continued consolidation and growth are driven by supply chain services in Q4 F23, which grew by 15% including acquisitions. The diversified revenue portfolio across segments offset muted growth in e-commerce and freight forwarding business revenues were impacted by downward correction in freight rates. Despite the impact of the pricing, underlying volume growth was positive in ocean exports and air imports.

Rivigo acquisition adds 19,000 pin-codes across India

MLL said the mobility business continues to see a strong uptick on airport-based services driven by higher travel and moderate pick up in employee transportation management.

During the last quarter MLL's wholly owned subsidiary MLL Express Services Private Limited (MESPL) completed the acquisition of the Rivigo's B2B express business, along with the associated brand and technology platforms. The acquisition expands its presence to over 19,000 pin-codes across India.

The integration is underway and is expected to start realizing cost reduction benefits from Q1 FY23-24. The integration of Rivigo's network, technology and process capabilities, will strengthen MLL's existing B2B express business and overall customer value proposition.



"We are excited about our long-term vision to grow our B2B express logistics business in India and the combined strengths of the businesses enhance our ability to create long term value for our customers. We have great confidence in the leadership team and believe they will provide the right impetus for growth," said the MLL Managing Director, Swaminathan.

Gurgaon-based Rivigo comes in with the capabilities of a pan India B2B express network, a robust client base and a full-service technology suite. Their 250+ processing centres and branches, spanning an area more than 1.5 million sq. ft. is another strength.

MESPL also announced Sreeram Venkateswaran as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Sunil Singh as Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Swati Rane as Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

"We are excited about our long-term vision to grow our B2B express logistics business in India and the combined strengths of the businesses enhance our ability to create long term value for our customers. We have great confidence in the leadership team and believe they will

provide the right impetus for growth," said the MLL Managing Director, Swaminathan.

He assured the company's continued investment in the industry, saying: "In C24 FY23, we continued to invest in our vision of becoming a customer-led provider of integrated logistics & mobility solutions. Despite slowdown in some end markets, our core 3PL business demonstrated positive traction on order intake and margin expansion, driven by our diversified market segments. Our freight forwarding business was impacted by freight price corrections but demonstrated volume growth across all offerings. The integration program of Rivigo's B2B express business acquired last quarter remains on track to yield cost and operating synergies in the coming quarters. Continued investments in operational excellence and technology aided in operational efficiencies. During the quarter we were certified as 'Great Place to Work', reaffirming our commitment to building an equal opportunity, inclusive workplace. We remain optimistic of positive demand uptick in coming quarters and remain focused on consolidating and leveraging our portfolio."

Major warehouse expansion

The warehouse space under management stood at 19 million Sq. ft. including all service lines and the company along with Ascendas-Firstspace, an industrial real estate developer, announced launch of one million sq. ft. warehouse park in Talegaon, Pune.

With comprehensive connectivity, the entire development will be spread over three phases with the first phase of 0.5 million sq. ft. to be operational by the end of 2023-24.

At the Ascendas-Firstspace Pune Talegaon-II Logistics Park, spread over 40-acres, this is the second project in the micro-market of Ascendas-Firstspace. Talegaon-II is part of the Chakan Talegaon Industrial Corridor (CTIC), which is one of the most important manufacturing clusters in India. The area has been a traditional manufacturing base for large auto, engineering, and electronics companies. The CTIC corridor is currently witnessing significant growth on account of the success of the 'Make in India' program.

Sanjay Bajaj, Managing Director, Logistics & Industrial, India in JLL said, "We are proud to be the transaction advisors for this unique project. This is a testimony of India logistics growth story. Outsourcing of logistics activities is a major trend with 43% of all transactions in the 3PL sector in 2022."



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ABB E-mobility and Scania successfully undertake first test in development of Megawatt Charging System

Testing represents a global milestone in development of charging system for heavy duty vehicles. Their collaboration is key in driving electrification of heavy-duty transport, currently responsible for 40 percent of global road transport emissions

Sweden's Scania, a leading global provider of transport solutions, notably trucks and buses for heavy transport applications, says it has successfully installed and tested a pilot megawatt charging system from ABB E-mobility, representing the next milestone in the development of an efficient, high-power charging solution for heavy-duty vehicles. The technology will enable half the charging time for heavy-duty vehicles.

Both companies pledged commitment to enabling a zero-emission transport future and taking the lead in developing tomorrow's technology today. Developing a solution to fast charge these commercial electric vehicles, which will also deliver significant range, is a major step towards increasing sales of heavy-duty vehicles that can be driven fossil-free.

The initial testing, to prove the technical viability of high current charging, is a first important step towards the future MCS system from ABB E-mobility. This will result in the progressive deployment of high-power chargers, starting from 1,500 Ampere and eventually extending to the full MCS scope of up to 3,000 Ampere. This is a charging standard that Scania and ABB E-mobility have both invested in and have been instrumental in developing in collaboration with CharIN (the MCS standard is expected in 2024).

MCS technology is critical for Scania's long-haul electric trucks, where both driving time and resting time are regulated by law.

The vehicle can be driven for a maximum of 4.5 hours before the driver needs to take a 45-minute break and during this time the truck needs to charge enough power to operate another 4.5 hours. Due to the size of the batteries, both fast and high-power charging is essential.

"We see momentum for electric transport and our goal is that 50 percent of all vehicles we sell annually by 2030 are electric. To achieve this goal will require infrastructure and MCS is a crucial piece of the puzzle for the infrastructure going forward," said Fredrik Allard, Head of E-mobility, Scania.

As a global leader in EV charging solutions, ABB E-mobility is at the forefront of delivering the reliable charging infrastructure and robust service capabilities which fleets require in order to successfully transition to electric.

Chris Nordh, Global Head of the Fleet & Transit business at ABB E-mobility, added: "We are delighted to be collaborating with Scania on this milestone pilot, which will set a precedent for the sector and identifies one of the ways we collaboratively approach OEM charging partnerships, effectively verticalizing the technology stack to create great end-user experiences."

"Today is an exciting day and we look forward to many more milestones to come as we further develop a quality, reliable, and seamless charging experience for fleets."

Starting this year, Scania can offer trucks with the MCS pre-standard connector to customers with specific and pronounced needs, with production set to begin in 2024. ABB E-mobility will introduce the next iteration of its MCS technology in late 2024/early 2025.

Scania clinches deal for e-trucks in Mexico

In April, Scania clinched a deal to deliver seven Scania electric trucks to Mexico's Grupo Bimbo, the world's largest baking company.

The seven 2024-model 25P B4x2 rigid electric trucks from Scania México are 100% electric vehicles, which will be driven on urban routes. Each has load capacities of 11.5 tons and will be fitted with the Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) 2.0. Each vehicle will also be covered by Scania maintenance contracts, to ensure maximum availability of what will be the first-ever Scania electric truck fleet in Latin America.

Grupo Bimbo's order comes after it completed a successful trial period of a 25P B4x2 electric truck, as part of the company's shared intention with Scania of moving towards sustainable transport. The trial, which began in 2022, produced positive results in terms of range and performance.

For Scania México, the deal underlines its commitment to launching a new electric truck each year; it wants electric vehicles to represent 10% of its vehicle offer by 2025, and targets 100% by 2050. The new Scania electric trucks will also help Grupo Bimbo continue to make progress towards reducing its own carbon emissions, and more than 80% of the electricity that it consumes now comes from renewable sources.

"Both companies are gradually approaching our common goal of reducing the polluting emissions of our vehicles to 20% of their 2015 level by 2025, and keep going until we reach zero carbon emissions, in alignment with our commitment to the Science-Based Targets initiative," said Alejandro Mondragón, CEO of Scania México. **Source: www.scania.com**



Scania Charging Access in key European cities to be launched in October to simplify public charging for electric trucks and buses



Scania is poised to offer seamless access to a Europe-based charging network suitable for mixed fleets of trucks and buses, to help simplify the transition to electrification and fulfil customers' need for more charging solutions.

The company said the Scania Charging Access will offer set, predictable costs with no hidden fees, via a convenient invoicing system. Customers will be able to plan, operate and pay for their public charging through one service. Scania Charging Access will launch in multiple European countries in October and will be expanded to cover public charging networks built for trucks.

- **Scania Charging Access will offer market-leading coverage for public charging of trucks**
- **Predictable pricing, no hidden fees and one consolidated invoice**
- **Available also for mixed fleets, it is the first European service of its kind**
- **Particular focus on availability, simplicity and uptime**
- **Enabling drivers to locate charging stations that are suitable for trucks**
- **Scania Charging Access offers peace of mind for drivers and fleet managers.**



Fredrik Allard



“With this initiative, we aim to create a charging solution that favours true customer value such as simplicity and uptime,” said Allard. “By using our charging service, customers can obtain reliable, relevant information of where to find charging stations that are suitable for trucks, and be assured that they are paying fair local prices. So far, customers have been struggling with different apps, conditions and invoices, not unlike the mess users have been experiencing on the passenger car side.”

“Scania Charging Access will help iron out the hurdles and stress connected to en-route charging by offering an extensive network and hassle-free administration,” said Fredrik Allard, Senior Vice President and Head of E-mobility at Scania. “This service will no doubt be welcomed by hesitant haulers and transport buyers. It will help lead the way towards the large-scale electrification of buses and trucks in different

applications in Europe.”

The initial customer interfaces will be My Scania (overview, planning and administration) and the newly released Scania Driver App, enabling drivers to find where the chargers are located, to calculate the distance to them and to monitor the charging processes. Scania Charging Access is open to customers with mixed fleets.

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Uptime and reliability are key in the transport industry for all kinds of customers, and Scania sees a real demand for making charging easy and predictable. Scania cannot disclose its network partners yet, but Allard says there is potential for local Scania dealer networks and major providers within the car charging business to join Scania's charging service.

“The whole transport industry is longing for something like this to happen,” said Allard. “Scania Charging Access is first and foremost about creating the right



conditions for a true e-Mobility transformation of our industry. I am not saying we are philanthropists, but the main target is to create the necessary infrastructure for sustainable transport. I really hope that other OEMs will support this by also introducing shared networks for mixed fleets, offering customers access to the broadest possible charging network for trucks in Europe.”

Scania Charging Access will be launched in October, simplifying charging and kick-starting a seamless transition to electrification all over Europe.

“This is a unique initiative. No-one else in the industry is offering one smart solution, where all kinds of customers can find operators that offer charging points suited for trucks and buses; all while still receiving one consolidated invoice per month,” Allard noted. “The essence is to unify different charging solutions and create the kind of customer value that will help convince those customers that are willing but so far hesitant to electrify their transport.”

Source: www.scania.com

Athens International Airport launches Nallian-powered Cargo Cloud to maximize capacity and facilitate freight pick-ups and drop-offs

Athens/Brussels: Athens International Airport (AIA), the first carbon neutral airport in Greece, is launching collaborative solutions provider Nallian's Cargo Cloud to facilitate growth in a synergetic manner through optimization of its airport's cargo facilities.

Adopted in the framework of STARGATE (SusTainable AiRports, the Green heArT of Europe), an EU project focused on the development of innovative solutions to create the green airports and aviation of the future, AIA says it will initially use Truck Visit Management, which coordinates freight pick-ups and drop offs between cargo handlers, freight forwarders and trucking companies. It will involve key players in the air cargo activity for the first phase of the project scheduled for a period of 12 months, effective July 2023.

The solution consists of a digital front desk and slot booking system which enables cargo stakeholders to make landside dock capacity

available for slot booking and maximize usage while facilitating resource planning and eliminating wait times at the gates.

"Predictable and efficient processes involving digital solutions empower our cargo community with effective tools towards a sustainable operation. The Truck Visit Management solution is expected to eliminate congestion and wait times at our cargo terminals and improve effectiveness, by complementing the existing systems of the air cargo stakeholders," said Alexios Sioris, Ground Handling and Cargo Development Manager AIA.



Jean Verheyen, CEO Nallian, adds: "Our Cargo Cloud, which is used by airports big and small in Europe, Asia and the US, allows a step-by-step digitalization approach. We are proud to support Athens International Airport on their digital journey, starting with the optimization of their landside management process in the context of the STARGATE initiative."

SITA: Air transport industry turns to digitalization as baggage mishandling rates virtually double amid growing passenger volumes

GENEVA: Airlines and airports are facing a surge in baggage mishandling rates amid the growing volume of passengers, with the number of mishandled bags almost doubling from 2021 to 2022 to 7.6 bags per thousand passengers, according to SITA's 2023 Baggage IT Insights recently released report.

The shortage of skilled staff, resumption of international travel, and congestion at airports has made it challenging to manage bags and ensure their smooth handling at airports – particularly during peak travel periods. The overall increase in mishandling is forcing the industry to focus on digitalization and automation, with technology investments that deliver greater automation and self-service being a top priority.

Delayed bags accounted for 80% of all mishandled bags in 2022, lost and stolen bags increased to 7%, and damaged and pilfered bags decreased to 13%.

The surge in the mishandling rate comes after more than a decade of reduction in mishandled baggage. Significant process improvements helped the mishandling rate per thousand passengers fall by 59.7% between 2007 and 2021. However, given the pressure of staff shortages on operations post-COVID, the 2022 mishandling rate of 7.6 bags per thousand passengers represents a 75% increase from 2021.

Transfer bags have historically accounted for the majority of mishandled bags. This was no different in 2022, with a one-percentage point increase from 2021, pushing the proportion of bags delayed at transfer to 42%. This increase is attributed to the resurgence of international and long-haul travel, leading to loading errors and greater transfer mishandling rates.

The failure to load bags accounted for 18% of all mishandled bags in 2022, representing a 3% decrease from the previous year. Loading errors more than doubled compared to the previous year, accounting for 9% of all delayed bags in 2022, stemming from operational strains on baggage systems.

David Lavorel, CEO, SITA said: "After a decade where the mishandling rate more



than halved between 2007 and 2021, it is disheartening to see this rate climbing again. As an industry, we need to work hard to ensure passengers are once again confident to check in their bags. We at SITA are working directly with airlines and airports to help solve key pain points in the baggage journey through smart automation, tracking, and digital platforms."

Investing in real-time baggage status information has become a key priority for airlines, with 57% of airlines providing their staff with mobile access to real-time baggage status information. This figure is expected to increase significantly to 84% by 2025, and 67% of airlines plan to offer real-time baggage status information directly to passengers, marking a substantial improvement from 25% today.



Groupe ADP becomes Official Partner of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Paris, France: Groupe ADP, the world's leading airport operator, has become an Official Partner of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Group, which welcomes nearly 90 million passengers each year in Paris, says it will put its expertise in terms of reception at the service of the athletes, the Olympic family and spectators from all over the world.

"This partnership is a proud and meaningful alliance: Paris 2024's call "Let's open up the Games" resonates with our mission to welcome the world for the universal celebration that are the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. During the summer of 2024, France will be the centre of the world. It is in our airports that the Games will begin and will end for many: everyone will make their first and last memories there. This is a magnificent challenge for the entire airport community and for our territories, and a unique opportunity to demonstrate our know-how and commitment to hospitality. Groupe ADP with all its employees, will be there to make Paris 2024 an unforgettable collective success," said Augustin de Romanet, Chairman and CEO of Groupe ADP.

Tony Estanguet, President of Paris 2024, welcomed Groupe ADP's participation as the event's official partner.

"In just over a year, France will be hosting the world, and Groupe ADP's know-how and expertise in hospitality will be essential to ensure that the experience of foreign spectators and thousands of athletes gets off to the best possible start. Groupe ADP's active policy towards people with disabilities is also fully in line with our ambition to take advantage of the first Summer Paralympic Games in France to move our society towards greater inclusion and accessibility. We are committed to deepening our collaboration in this area and in many others, for the success of the Paris 2024 Games. Thank you to Groupe ADP, and welcome to the adventure," he said.

Paris airports will be the gateways for the 15,000 athletes, the 208 delegations



qualified for the Paris 2024 Games, especially the transcontinental ones. From the airports, a large part of the athletes will set off to conquer their victories and dreams, followed by thousands of delegation members, journalists, supporters and spectators.

Along with the entire airport community, more than 5,000 employees of Groupe ADP in Paris are mobilised to put their expertise and sense of welcome at the service of the success of this global event.

Paris 2024 aims to leave a common and lasting legacy for the entire airport community such as the improvement of the quality of rail-air routes within the CDG 2 train station at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport.

DXB Q1 traffic reaches 95.6% of 2019 levels with 21.2m passengers



DUBAI, UAE: Traffic at Dubai International (DXB) has reached 95.6% of 2019 levels with passenger numbers exceeding 21.2 million in the first quarter of the year. This follows DXB's strong showing last year during which the airport clocked 66m passengers to retain its position as the world's busiest international hub for the ninth year running.

DXB is currently connected to 234 destinations across 99 countries via 89 scheduled international carriers.

"DXB's performance in the first quarter has exceeded our expectations and reflects the strong growth in demand that we are continuing to see across our key markets. With important developments in the international travel sector such as the further easing of travel protocols in China, and the upcoming local annual seasonal peaks and festive holidays, our outlook for the second quarter and the remainder of the year remains bullish. Accordingly, we have had to readjust our traffic forecast for 2023 upward to 83.6 million passengers, which will put DXB within striking distance to our 2019 annual traffic," said Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports.

DXB's passenger traffic totalled 21,256,489 during the first three months of the year, up 55.8% compared to the first quarter of 2022, and marking the first time since the fourth quarter of 2019 when average monthly traffic reached the 7-million passenger-mark. March was the busiest month in the first quarter with 7.3 million passengers, which is also the highest monthly traffic since January 2020 when DXB recorded 7.8m passengers.

India remained DXB's top destination country with passenger traffic reaching 3m, followed by Saudi Arabia (1.6m), the UK (1.4m) and Pakistan (1m passengers). Other countries of note include the US (840K passengers), Russia (729K) and Germany (628K), while the list of top cities by passenger numbers was led by London (890K passengers) Mumbai (645K), and Jeddah (641K), followed closely by Riyadh (604K passengers).

DXB handled a total of 400,015 tonnes of cargo during Q1, a contraction of 23% compared to the first quarter of 2022 during which the hub had handled 519,555 tonnes of airfreight.

Total flight movements during Q1 reached 100,840, a year-on-year increase of 23% and 1.6% higher than Q1 of 2019 when DXB recorded a total of 99,197 movements.

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Ian Morgan joins ECS Group as Group Commercial Director in the USA

Paris, France: Ian Morgan has joined ECS Group as its new Group Commercial Director for the USA.

Previously Qatar Airways Cargo's Vice President Cargo for the Americas, Morgan fits perfectly with ECS Group's ongoing development and plan to create a position of Group Commercial Director for the USA. His appointment took effect on 01 May 2023.

"Our wish was to benefit from the support of someone who would not only have a solid cargo experience but who would also share the values of our group. Ian was the ideal candidate," said Adrien Thominet, Executive Chairman of ECS Group.

Having gained considerable airfreight expertise in the USA while working as manager for the biggest companies, Ian joins ECS Group with a substantial network and a great ability to meet the requirements of the GSSA's customers, thanks to his strong airline

background.

As ECS Group's Group Commercial Director for the USA, Ian's role will entail a wide range of commercial responsibilities. From ensuring the Group's commercial performance to managing the interface with USA based customers with high growth potential, the position will also involve contributing to the Group's business development.

This new role is essential as ECS Group has great expectations for the USA. With a number of contracts on the increase in terms of capacity, the American market is highly strategic for the GSSA.

"The opportunity to join the premium GSSA in the business, and to work for two people I respect immensely, was something that professionally I knew was the right step in my



Ian Morgan

career. I look forward to collaborating with the ECS team to further develop and enhance the excellent brand and reputation that ECS has globally as well as regionally," said Morgan.



Hassan Chamas

ACC Aviation appoints Head of Charter - Middle East

Reigate, UK: As part of ambitious expansion plans in the Middle East, ACC Aviation has appointed Hassan Chamas to head the company's charter offering throughout the region.

Hassan previously held senior positions at prominent operators and aviation companies across the US, Europe and the Middle East and brings a wealth of experience to the business.

Joining ACC's consulting and leasing departments already established in the region, Hassan will be working closely with ACC's charter departments in Europe and United States to grow the company's client and supplier footprint across the Middle East.

"I am delighted to join the highly respected team at ACC Aviation and to begin a new chapter in my career. Thanks to the unparalleled knowledge and skill set of ACC's global teams, I am confident that we

can further develop the charter business here in Dubai and in the wider region," said Hassan.

Based in ACC's Dubai office located in the Dubai Airport Freezone (DAFZA), Hassan's immediate focus will be on bolstering the company's offering for existing clients before laying plans for regional development and future growth.

Tom Erskine is Accelya's new CMO



Tom Erskine

London, UK: Tom Erskine has been named the new Chief Marketing Officer of Accelya, a leading global provider of technology solutions to the travel industry, which seeks to accelerate growth through customer-first innovation for the airline industry.

Based in London, Tom will oversee the planning, development, and execution of Accelya's marketing initiatives globally. He will report into Chief Revenue Officer Andrew Wilcock and will ensure the company remains inherently customer-centric and pro-airline in its approach, while further growing the culture of innovation within Accelya.

Tom previously held executive roles at Microsoft, AWS, and most recently Cloudways (now part of DigitalOcean), and has held leadership roles in the USA, UAE, and UK.

"This is a truly exciting time for airlines, I'm so

proud to be joining an organization at the forefront of accelerating the digital transformation for the industry," said Tom. "I look forward to driving further growth for Accelya by listening closely to our customers, fostering a culture of innovation and experimentation, and continuing to make Accelya a great place to work for our international team of marketers."

Sam Gilliland, Chief Executive Officer at Accelya, said, "Tom's exceptional experience in the software industry, in particular his years at AWS, will be invaluable in driving Accelya's customer centricity and unlocking innovation across the company. He will be a tremendous asset to our leadership team, bringing a fresh perspective, strong international experience, and a track record for really striving to understand customers' needs and motivations."



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Upcoming Events



CNS Partnership Conference 2023

The CNS Partnership Conference is a key component of CNS' work. It has brought together the leaders and decision-makers of the industry to explore and influence the future development of air cargo. Lasting business relationships, strategic partnerships and life-long friendships were initiated at our annual conference.

The CNS Partnership Conference maintains a 3-day action-packed program! Mixing fun social events and content sessions, enabling you to: Create connections with potential partners and prospective new business; learn about the latest trends and developments affecting the air cargo supply chain through a conference type set-up in addition to a variety of panels and break-out sessions, and; stay up-to-date with the latest government regulations and its impact in our industry.

4-6 June 2023, Miami, Florida, USA

Paris Air Show 2023

The International Paris Air Show is organized by the SIAE, a subsidiary of GIFAS, French Aerospace Industries Association. The 54th edition of the Show will take place at the Le Bourget Parc des Expositions in June 2023, and once again will bring together all the players in this global industry around the latest technological innovations. The first four days of the Show will be reserved for trade visitors, followed by three days open to the general public.

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

The 13th International Conference on Logistics & Transport 2023

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

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

27-29 September 2023, Helsinki, Finland

2023 FIATA World Congress

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

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

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

3-6 October 2023 | Brussels, Belgium

Air Cargo/Transport Logistic Southeast Asia

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

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

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



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