

Schiphol Airport

A nexus of innovations and collaborations

Joost van Doesburg
Head of Cargo, Schiphol Airport



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Femme Fleet
Lyndee du Toit



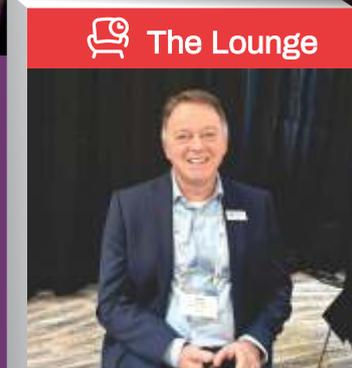
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Samuel Kariuki, Business Development Specialist.

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Sustainability is everybody's business

Human-induced climate change-related calamities appear to be the most pervasive global threat to humanity and their natural environment. And the problem gets even worse with bureaucracy and corruption.

During the first half of the year, the world was stunned by successive calamities across continents never before seen in history. Massive floods in Pakistan; wildfires in the US, Canada, Greece, Spain, and elsewhere in Europe; unusual drought in France, Italy, Madagascar, and so on; sudden earthquakes; super typhoons, flash floods, and the list goes on.

In February, Turkiye and Syria were rattled by successive strong quakes that killed more than 59,000 people in Turkiye and an additional 8,476 in Syria.

It was Turkiye's deadliest earthquake since 1939 which affected some 14 million people. Of which, 1.5 million were left homeless. Thousands of buildings, roads, and other vital infrastructure were damaged. Experts estimated the damages in Turkiye at \$104 billion and \$14.8 billion in Syria.

Since March 2023, Canada has been battling a record-setting series of wildfires. At least 13 provinces and territories have been affected by large fires in Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec

In early August, the island of Maui in the US state of Hawaii suffered a series of wildfires that killed at least 115 people and hundreds more still missing. The destruction was so massive that thousands were left homeless. Moody's Analytics estimated the damages at between \$4 billion to \$6 billion. It would take years to rebuild the damaged areas.

In all of those tragedies, various industries, particularly air cargo, were at the forefront of recovery, rescue, and relief operations.

The German multinational insurance company Munich Re Group has warned about the devastating economic impact of climate change on people and businesses. The company said the overall losses so far have reached \$110 billion which is above the 10-year average.

"Less than 40% of overall losses in the first half of the year were insured – evidence of the large insurance gap that persists in many countries for multiple natural hazards," Munich Re said in a report.

Indeed, everyone must take environmental and sustainability issues seriously to keep this world breathing and running.

Gemma Q. Casas

Editor-in-Chief

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'I USED TO BE AN AVID RUNNER, COVERING DISTANCES LIKE 10 KILOMETERS. THOSE DAYS ARE BEHIND ME, I'VE FOUND A NEW INTEREST IN GARDENING.'



Hans van Schaik
Sales Director, SACO Airport Equipment

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aving a career in the air cargo industry leaves a unique indelible imprint on people that shape their future paths as individuals and leaders.

Hans van Schaik, sales director at SACO Airport Equipment, shares his own unique story, a journey that has led him to unforgettable travels across the world, meeting people from all walks of life and responsible evolution as an industry leader.

"Long ago, I worked for a company specializing in industrial weighing, and handling exports. Among diverse industries, I encountered an airport equipment firm, which thrilled me due to a lifelong fascination with the industry. My father's involvement in the field fueled this excitement since childhood," van Schaik recalls.

"Eventually," he added, "I switched careers to join an airport equipment company, following my passion. The allure of airports and planes remains strong. I've been with SACO since 2004, spanning nearly 20 years. This journey has led me worldwide, aligning with my intrinsic connection to this industry."

Based in The Netherlands, SACO designs, manufactures, and supplies turnkey cargo handling equipment and systems for more than 50 years now. Its products have been widely used in many European countries as well as in India, Indonesia, Russia, USA, UAE, Canada, Curaçao, Rwanda, and Ethiopia.

Van Schaik worked his way up to become a team leader and eventually as head of sales for SACO.

"Being deeply engaged across all aspects allows you to navigate the company towards your envisioned path. In my early days in 2004, the turnover was struggling. Now, it's surged by about 20 times. The sense of pride in this achievement is immense. Witnessing the growing team is equally rewarding; their

"I value enthusiasm as a primary trait in individuals, alongside their professional qualities. The drive to create and excel is crucial in those I seek. Embrace your authenticity. My dad's advice: Don't pretend to be someone else. Progress comes from being genuine. I value openness and honest conversations. Just be yourself, as that's most important."

enthusiasm fuels me. My role isn't about being a boss, but inspiring others to join this journey we're on," he said.

Taking time to keep your work and life balance is important, said van Schaik. He does this by engaging in sports and these days, gardening.

"I used to be an avid runner, covering distances like 10 kilometers. Although those days are behind me, I've found a new interest in gardening. Our home is on the outskirts of a larger city, allowing me to immerse myself in outdoor activities. Another source of joy is witnessing my children's growth and journey toward their own paths. Recently, we acquired land in Brazil, presenting an exciting upcoming challenge. Gardening there will be especially demanding due to the rapid growth of vegetation," van Schaik shared.

Adding, "My wife often complains about the work-life balance. I'm focused on emphasizing the 'life' aspect, though it's challenging. With more staff, I can now invest time in my personal life. Unfortunately, I struggle to disconnect from work at home due to global clients in varying time zones reaching out via email or WhatsApp. To manage, I've silenced my phone and relied on vibrations for notifications. This grants some peace during the day, and though it's tough, I attempt to ignore nighttime buzzes."

As an industry leader, van Schaik says it's important to have enthusiasm and honesty in what you're doing.

"I value enthusiasm as a primary trait in individuals, alongside their professional qualities. The drive to create and excel is crucial in those I seek. Embrace your authenticity. My dad's advice: Don't pretend to be someone else. Progress comes from being genuine. I value openness and honest conversations. Just be yourself, as that's most important," he said.

And to the younger generation seeking to venture into the air cargo industry, van Schaik says efforts must be stepped up to help inspire them to create a rewarding career path in the sector.

"During a recent reception, a topic of discussion was the lack of youth interest in air cargo, unlike larger firms such as Swissport, WFS, UPS, and Amazon, which attract younger talent due to their progressive nature. Smaller companies, however, tend to remain conservative and are devoid of young representation. Initiatives like TIACA's young professional program aim to address this and the industry's communication and modernization challenges, which are yet to be fully resolved," he said.

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Challenging Norms with Ambition: Empowering Women to Soar High in the Skies of Success

Lyndee du Toit's remarkable journey as the CEO of Air Charter Service Africa highlights her pivotal role in the aviation industry and her unyielding commitment to inspiring the next generation of women in aviation and logistics.

Ambitious from the outset, Lyndee's entrance into a predominantly male-dominated industry kindled an even fiercer determination within her. Recognizing the need to surpass expectations, she embarked on a career journey guided by her desire to excel. Early on, she found herself under the guidance of a dynamic woman, an experience that ignited her aspiration to lead. As her career unfolded, Lyndee delved into the world of air cargo, an industry she felt an immediate affinity with. A defining moment emerged when she approached Air Charter Service to establish an office in South Africa, a move that encapsulated her aspiration to build a thriving enterprise within a nurturing framework.

Throughout her career, Lyndee has confronted a

"My ambition was the fuel that propelled me to excel in an industry dominated by men. I aspire for my success to ignite a fire within women, empowering them to fearlessly conquer the dynamic realm of aviation and logistics."



Lyndee du Toit

Chief Executive Officer, Africa Region
Air Charter Service

myriad of challenges, from navigating complex operational scenarios to addressing flights fraught with unforeseen complications. Her experiences have underscored the value of remaining composed in the face of adversity and the importance of transparent communication with clients, colleagues, and suppliers. She has come to believe that effective problem-solving hinges on becoming part of the solution, rather than dwelling on the problem. Sharing information at the right time has proven instrumental in finding resolutions.

Lyndee is a firm believer in the transformative power of fostering an inclusive work environment. She emphasizes adaptability and cultivating a familial atmosphere within the workplace. This approach has fostered a cohesive team that shares her dedication to working diligently while enjoying the journey. Late nights and round-the-clock efforts have been seamlessly undertaken by her team, a testament to the inclusive culture she has cultivated. Drawing inspiration from her South African roots, Lyndee actively promotes diversity and inclusivity through established programs.

The growth of Air Charter Service's South African office stands as a testament to Lyndee's innovative leadership. From its humble beginnings, the office has blossomed into a dynamic hub. Her dedication to fostering an open-door policy and facilitating the personal and professional growth of team members has played a pivotal role in the company's success. Lyndee's penchant for collaborative project management and her steadfast commitment to learning and evolving has been invaluable.

Lyndee's achievements culminated in her being awarded the Air Cargo Woman Leader of the Year accolade at Air Cargo Africa. This recognition from the industry reflects her exceptional contributions and leadership.

Amid the demanding and ever-evolving industry, Lyndee acknowledges the significance of a balanced life. While her career once held precedence, she has transitioned to actively seeking equilibrium. Prioritizing exercise, family time, and moments with friends are her antidote to the demanding nature of her role. Balancing the demands of a 24/7 profession with self-care has become a cornerstone of her approach to leadership.

In essence, Lyndee du Toit embodies resilience, innovative leadership, and the spirit of inclusion. Her journey serves as an inspiring narrative for aspiring women in aviation and logistics, encouraging them to transcend challenges and define their own success. Under her visionary leadership, Air Charter Service is poised to continue its trajectory as a force for positive change in the industry, driven by determination, inclusivity, and innovation.



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Silk Way West Airlines establishes new scheduled route connecting its global hub in Baku with Los Angeles

Baku, Azerbaijan: The leading cargo airline in the Caspian and Central Asian region, Silk Way West Airlines, says it has expanded its US network by adding weekly flights to and from Los Angeles International Airport, one of the world's largest cargo gateways, handling millions of tons of freight annually.

The airline said the addition of the California hub to its network reinforces its dedication to meeting the evolving needs

of its customers and supporting global trade. Adding, it will enable it to transport a wide range of general cargo, perishables, oversized and e-commerce goods on the route.

With this route expansion, Silk Way West Airlines enhances its presence in this key region by introducing an additional strategic destination. The addition of Los Angeles complements Silk Way West Airlines' flights to Houston, launched in April of this year, as well as the previously established regular flights to Chicago and Dallas.

"We are delighted to announce the expansion of our network with the addition of Los Angeles International Airport as a new destination," said Fadi Nahas, Silk Way West Vice President Americas. "The new route will greatly benefit our West Coast customers by providing freighter nose cargo load capacity and shorter transit times for US destinations west of the Continental Divide."

IATA: Air cargo contraction eases in June

Geneva, Switzerland: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) says air cargo contraction eased in June, the smallest year-over-year contraction in demand since February 2022.

The global demand, measured in cargo ton-kilometers (CTKs), fell 3.4% in June compared to June 2022 (-3.7% for international operations). For the half year, demand slid 8.1% compared to the January-June period of 2022 (-8.7% for international operations). However, demand in June was only 2.4% below June 2019 levels (pre-pandemic), IATA noted.

Key factors influencing air cargo demand include:

- In June, both the manufacturing output Purchasing Managers Index or PMI (49.2) and new export orders PMI (47.1) were below the critical threshold represented by the 50 mark, indicating a decline in global manufacturing production and exports.
- Global cross-border trade decreased by 2.4% year-over-year in May, reflecting the cooling demand environment and challenging macroeconomic conditions. The difference between the annual growth rates of air cargo and the global goods trade narrowed to -2.6 percentage points in May, representing

the smallest gap since January 2022. However, the gap still suggests that air cargo continues to suffer more than container cargo from the slowdown in global trade.

"We remain hopeful that the difficult trading conditions for air cargo will moderate as inflation eases in major economies. This, in turn, could encourage the central banks to loosen the money supply, which could stimulate greater economic activity," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

June Regional Performance

Asia-Pacific airlines saw their air cargo volumes decrease by 3.6% in June 2023 compared to the same month in 2022. Available capacity in the region increased by 24.4% compared to June 2022. Looking at the first half of 2023, cargo demand was down 6.5% versus the year-ago period with a 27.0% rise in capacity.

North American carriers had a 6.5% decrease in total cargo volumes in June 2023 compared to the same month in 2022, the fourth month in a row in which the region had the weakest performance. Europe-North America CTKs shrank by only 2.7% in June, following three months of double-digit contractions. Capacity increased 0.7% compared to June 2022. For the 2023 first half, cargo demand was down 10.5% compared to the 2022 first half, while capacity dipped 0.7%.

European carriers experienced a 2.8%

decrease in cargo volumes in June 2023, compared to the same month in 2022. This was an improvement in performance compared to May (-6.6%), in part due to the aforementioned Europe-North America performance. Capacity increased 4.4% compared to June 2022. Cargo demand was down 10.2% for the first six months of 2023 compared to last year, as the half-year capacity rose 2.5%.

Middle Eastern carriers posted a 0.5% increase in cargo volumes in June 2023 versus a year ago. This was a strong turnaround from the 2.9% year-over-year decline registered in May. Capacity rose 11.1% for the month. Both Middle East-Asia and Middle East-Europe route areas saw annual growth. For the first half of the year, cargo demand was down 5.6% compared to a year ago, with an 11.2% hike in capacity.

Latin American carriers had strongest performance in June 2023, with a 7.3% increase in cargo volumes compared to June 2022. Capacity in June was up 15.4% over the same month in 2022. For the 2023 first half, cargo demand was up 0.9% versus a year ago, while capacity climbed 18.0%.

African airlines posted a 2.8% decrease in demand compared to June 2022. This was a decline in performance compared to the previous month (-1.9%). Capacity in June was down 3.7% compared to the same month in 2022. For the first half of the year, cargo demand slowed by 4.4% while capacity climbed 1.6%.



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RwandAir signs cargo handling contract with WFS for first-ever direct flights to Paris

"We are excited and proud to celebrate the start of RwandAir's new three-times-a-week service to Paris from Kigali. We know this fantastic new route to the French capital will prove very popular with our customers. We look forward to growing our presence in the French market as we continue to expand our international route network and connect Africa with Europe and more overseas destinations."

Laurent Bernard, VP Cargo France at WFS, commented: "RwandAir is another prestigious airline client for WFS in France and we are proud to have been chosen to support its ambitious growth strategy, connecting Paris with the heart of Africa. RwandAir is recognized for its on-time performance, customer service, and safety and these reflect WFS' own core values. We look forward to a long and successful partnership."

Kigali, Rwanda: Rwanda's national carrier, RwandAir, says Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) will handle its ground handling operations at Paris Charles de Gaulle as it launches its first-ever direct flight service between France and the country.

The airline recently launched its three non-stop Airbus A330 flights a week between Kigali and Paris, its 25th destination.

WFS will provide full cargo handling services for RwandAir, supporting the airline's freight forwarding customers and its GSA partner in France, Network Airline Services (NAS). Flights depart from Paris CDG every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, providing the only direct air service between the two countries.

Speaking at the launch of the new route, Yvonne Makolo, RwandAir's CEO, said:

Agility reports its controlled businesses performed well in Q2 2023 but higher interest rate expenses had its impact

KUWAIT: Global supply chain services, infrastructure, and innovation operator Agility reported its second-quarter revenue from its controlled businesses grew 136.8 percent to KD 327.8 million (approximately \$1.065 billion) and its EBITDA increased 63.4% to KD 60.5 million (about \$197 million) but was impacted by higher interest rate expenses.

With this, the company reported second-quarter 2023 earnings of KD 14.2 million, or 5.55 fils per share, a decrease of 11.7% over the same period in 2022.

"Net profit this quarter was impacted by higher interest rate expenses resulting from a general increase in interest rates in addition to an increase in debt required to finance the company's acquisitions last year," Agility explained in a statement.

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 by 9.5% to KD 41.5 million, & revenue grew 8.9% in the 2nd quarter of 2023.

"We're pleased with our growth and performance this quarter. We continue to see good results in our operating businesses due to organic growth and our acquisitions in 2022. Global equity markets performed better this quarter, reflecting in our investments segment. Nevertheless, we continue to take a longer-term view of our strategic investments. We also continue to look for opportunities to drive and unlock value for our shareholders, customers, employees and communities," said Agility Vice Chairman Tarek Sultan.

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 Q2, the combined EBITDA of its controlled businesses was KD 61.2 million on revenue of KD 327.8 million, increases of 54% and 136.8%, respectively, over Q2 2022.

These controlled businesses include Aviation Services (Menzies Aviation) and fuel logistics.

"Menzies Aviation results have strengthened with the post-pandemic aviation industry recovery, which has included growth in flight volumes. Volumes in most geographies have fully recovered, except for East Asia, where lockdown restrictions were strictest, and volumes are now slowly growing. Menzies has a number of new operations that it has launched or acquired: Jamaica, Panama, Atlanta, Milan, Montreal, and others," said Agility.

On fuel logistics, Agility noted, "Tristar's Q2 consolidated revenue grew 76.2% vs. Q2 a year earlier and EBITDA increased 33.5%. This growth is driven mainly by the momentum of our Maritime and Fuel Farms segments. Tristar's addition of HG Storage International also contributed to this growth. The results of this quarter reflect Tristar's continued operational improvement and demonstrate the effectiveness of their diversified portfolio."

WFS invests in 5th new-build cargo terminal in Madrid to provide growth capacity



Paris, France: Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a member of The SATS Group, announced it will open a fifth cargo handling terminal at Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport to provide additional growth capacity and secure its position as Madrid's largest independent handling provider.

Construction of the new 6,500m² terminal has now commenced and WFS aims to begin operations from the facility by the end of Q1 2024, increasing its total cargo facility footprint in Madrid to 17,000m².

"Madrid is such a strategically important cargo market as a hub for Central and South America to and from the EU and connecting the Middle and Far East markets. This new cargo terminal will help to future-proof WFS' service offering by increasing our handling capacity by 60% for our current and

future airline customers. This will enable us to accommodate strong organic growth and support the significant increase of inbound e-commerce traffic from China," said Humberto Castro, Managing Director of WFS in Spain.

WFS has been present in the Madrid cargo and ground handling market since 1998 and serves 39 airline customers, also providing trucking services connecting other key airports in Spain and across the EU.

It has been proactively investing in its operation in Madrid for over two decades to meet customer growth at Spain's leading cargo airport, previously adding additional facilities in 2001, 2018, and 2019. In support of its long-term commitment to the airport and its airline community, WFS has signed a 30-year lease on the new building opening in 2024, which sits on a 12,500m² plot connected to the airport tarmac.

As with all new WFS cargo terminals, the building is being designed to incorporate the highest levels of safety, security, and customer service as well as to support WFS' progressive digitization and sustainability programs.

The building which is 100 percent powered by renewable energy will offer: 17 landside truck and van docks for efficient cargo collections and deliveries, supported by direct and wide access from the main road to the facility; 2 Build-up-Pallet lanes and docks; 4 airside truck and dollies docks with tilting and 20-foot ULD handling capabilities; 2-8°C and 15-25°C loose and mechanized temperature-controlled cool rooms for pharma and perishable shipments, supported by WFS' GDP certification in Madrid, and; Dedicated areas for DGS, VUN, HUM, PIL and AVI special cargoes, among other features.



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MRO Middle East and Aircraft Interiors Middle East set to return in 2024 bigger and better

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: MRO Middle East and Aircraft Interiors Middle East (AIME) announced the events are set to return to Dubai in 2024 for their biggest editions yet, gathering the entire airline supply chain over two days.

The event saw record-breaking attendance in 2023, welcoming almost 6,400 visitors – an increase of 46% compared to the previous year – and almost 200 exhibitors from 97 countries. Catering to the higher demand, the event will have an extra hall for 2024, providing even more exhibition and networking opportunities.

Taking place on March 5-6, 2024 at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC), this will be the first edition where both shows are organized under the same parent company, following Informa's acquisition of Tarsus Group earlier this year, streamlining and strengthening the show for attendees.

The additional event hall adds 2,000 square meters of exhibition space, adding over 50 exhibitor booths, a dedicated Meeting Zone for enhanced networking and an extended Airline Lounge - an exclusive space for VIP airlines and lessors. It will also allow for a larger area dedicated to start-ups and SMEs, providing a platform to

highlight their breakthrough technologies, innovations and new ideas.

"The MRO market is experiencing rapid transformation due to innovation and the emergence of new players, and Dubai remains at the center of this growth in the Middle East. Our record-breaking 2023 edition reflected this, and we are delighted to expand our offering for this year, welcoming new and returning attendees from across the entire aviation industry for even more unique opportunities to learn from experts, network, and discover the latest technology in the commercial aviation aftermarket," said Lydia Janow, SVP Events at Aviation Week Network, part of Informa Markets.

Attendees of MRO Middle East and AIME 2024 will have the opportunity to explore world-class innovation and meet key decision-makers and buyers, including leading suppliers from the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) sector, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and parts and components providers, as well as airlines, lessors and interiors specialists.

Tim Hawes, Managing Director of Tarsus Group, commented: "As global demand for air travel continues to grow, new and existing airlines are looking for ways to enhance the passenger experience through modernized interiors and AIME 2024 will demonstrate the latest advancements and innovation in the market, welcoming key industry players to provide new insights and updates on trends."

Challenge Group welcomes B767-300BDSF to its growing fleet, boosting capacity and flexibility

Malta: Challenge Group celebrated the recent arrival of B767-300BDSF aircraft to its growing fleet, enhancing its overall capacity and operational flexibility to serve its customers better worldwide.

The airline said the introduction of the B767 aircraft is part of its fleet diversification project designed to adapt to evolving market demands and cater to specific customer requirements.

"We are excited to welcome the B767-300BDSF to our fleet, a testament to our dedication to providing exceptional service and solutions to our customers," said Yossi Shoukroun, Chief Executive Officer of Challenge Group. "This aircraft's enhanced efficiency and sustainability align perfectly with our mission to tackle the challenges posed by certain airport restrictions worldwide, including the 4-engine ban and noise level regulations that have been on the rise."

The B767's arrival will empower Challenge Group to be more competitive and versatile in meeting specific customer needs, allowing for greater flexibility when less capacity is required.



This increased adaptability will also pave the way for exploring new markets, including short and medium-haul routes within the EU, the India sub-continent, and the Middle East. The aircraft's volumetric ratio makes it an ideal choice for transporting commodities, making it highly suitable for e-commerce and pharma industries, where volumetric capacity is critical.

Or Zak, Chief Commercial Officer of Challenge Group, expressed his excitement about the fleet expansion, stating, "The B767's introduction will revolutionize our ability to serve our customers better. With additional capacity and enhanced flexibility, we can offer improved frequency to our current destinations and venture into new markets, enriching our global presence significantly."

Challenge Group has diligently prepared for this fleet diversification project, allowing sufficient time for specific trainings, operational adjustments, and targeted roadshows in key markets, like the recent one conducted in India. The continuation of the conversion program is set to begin in September, with two aircraft undergoing simultaneous conversion, and the full fleet of four B767 aircraft expected to be fully operational by Q1/2024.

The Challenge Group team is enthusiastic about the potential of the B767 aircraft to elevate their services, deliver value to customers, and explore new horizons, positioning the airline as an even more influential player in the aviation industry.



National Air Cargo Group partners with Etihad Cargo on USPS ICAIR 2023-27 program

Orlando/Abu Dhabi: US-based National Airlines, a division of National Air Cargo Group, Inc., announced it has entered an interline agreement with the United Arab Emirates' national freight carrier, Etihad Cargo, to successfully roll out the ICAIR23 program for the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Under phase 1 of the ICAIR23 program, National Airlines, a US flag carrier with P1 preferences will dispatch USPS civilian, military, and diplomatic mail using the scheduled services of Etihad Cargo across several awarded lanes. This agreement took effect in August 2023 and will run through August 2027.

The airlines said the agreement initiates a unique partnership, as it combines National's extensive experience in providing international freight transportation services with Etihad Cargo's global commercial network.

"It's our honor to again be part of the ICAIR program for USPS. This time it brings us much pleasure to collaborate with Etihad Cargo, a dynamic and rapidly growing global airline.

We are looking forward to this association and hope to provide best-in-class mail delivery experiences to customers around the world through this program," said Christopher Alf, Chairman, National Air Cargo Group, Inc.

Tim Isik, Vice President, Commercial at Etihad Cargo, noted: "Etihad Cargo is committed to making the transportation of mail across the carrier's network as seamless and efficient as possible. Etihad Cargo's partnership with National Air Cargo Group will enable the two airlines to join forces to enhance international USPS mail deliveries, providing greater connectivity to destinations across Etihad Cargo's global network, and provide customers with an efficient service."

With National Airlines' proven track record in worldwide cargo charters and logistics movement over the past three decades and Etihad Cargo's growing network which connects major cities across the globe, their collaboration is set to enhance the efficiency of international USPS mail deliveries, demonstrating a shared commitment to the ICAIR program.

Customers can expect improved transit times, enhanced tracking capabilities, and a seamless end-to-end experience to move their mail & packages, it added.



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Abu Dhabi, UAE: Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, further enhanced its freighter network with the addition of a weekly freighter service to the Chinese port city of Guangzhou, bringing to 10 per week its flights to mainland China.

Etihad Cargo said its new freighter route to Guangzhou comes in response to increased demand for cargo capacity for China and bolsters its existing freighter network to the country.

"With the introduction of a new freighter service between our Abu Dhabi hub and Guangzhou, combined with increased frequencies across China via Etihad Cargo's freighter services and the airline's passenger flights, customers and partners benefit from increased cargo capacity. Expanding the carrier's reach into the Chinese market not only meets the increased demand for cargo capacity in this region but will also further strengthen ties between the UAE and China, providing more opportunities for increased collaboration between the two countries," said Leonard Rodrigues, Head of Revenue Management, Fleet and

Etihad Cargo ramps up cargo capacity for China

Network at Etihad Cargo.

The Head of Marketing Department of Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport described the move as a "significant milestone" since the launch of the Abu Dhabi-Guangzhou passenger flight route in October last year that facilitated recovery for its market.

"The introduction of this all-cargo scheduled flight route will further enhance trade and logistics development between Guangzhou and Abu Dhabi International Airport, while strengthening connectivity between the Middle East, China, and other Belt and Road Initiative economies. We eagerly anticipate a brighter future as we continue to work closely with Etihad Airways," the official said.

In recent months, Etihad Cargo has continued to add depth to its Asian network, launching a fourth Chinese gateway via the weekly freighter service to the Hubei Province of China.

Etihad Cargo's inaugural flight to Ezhou Huahu Airport on 18 August, made it the first international carrier to operate flights to China's first professional cargo airport. The carrier also offers eight weekly freighter flights to Shanghai.

Complementing Etihad Cargo's expanding freighter network is its belly capacity for China via 10 passenger flights per week to Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shanghai. Via its growing road feeder services network in China, Etihad Cargo also offers customers and partners access to 25 domestic mainland Chinese destinations, providing seamless connectivity across the Chinese market.

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Nallian's Truck Visit Management Solution at Menzies LAX transforms Griley Air Freight's operations

Brussels, Belgium: Family-owned Griley Air Freight credited Nallian's Truck Visit Management (TVM) solution in transforming its operations at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) for the better when ground handler Menzies Aviation adopted it.

Griley Air Freight, one of the first companies to integrate it into its dispatching process, said it saw a reduction in waiting time to pick up imports and drop off exports. This immediately saved fuel and labor expenses, reduced engine emissions in a highly regulated state, and ensured a ready supply of drivers remained available for their customers.

Efficiently picking up and dropping off cargo at LAX wasn't only a Griley problem. It remains an "everyone" problem. At LAX wait time is on average between 2.5 to 6 hours, and during peaks, it can be up to 8 hours. It wastes fuel, man-hours, money, morale, and



time that could've been better utilized serving customers by transporting the goods to their final destinations.

Alfonso Munoz, Vice President of Griley Air Freight, explained, "When Menzies implemented Nallian's Truck Visit Management solution, we immediately saw the impact and waited on average three to four hours less."

The solution's real-time data provides insights into their operations, allowing them to make data-driven decisions. Recurring pickup requests and automated notifications further enhance their efficiency. Additionally, the solution supports commitment to green initiatives by reducing truck idling time, a significant win for sustainability.

With the solution, Menzies said it enables Griley to book time slots to pick up or drop off freight. Via an online booking form, dispatchers request bookings for pickups and drop-offs and can attach freight details. Drivers self-register upon arrival via the digital front desk to activate their booking.

Within a week of introduction, Griley Air Freight fully implemented Nallian's solution into their daily operations. Their dispatchers welcomed the system, as it makes their jobs easier. By simply logging in, they could enter requests, view assigned time slots in real time, track the status of each request, and make changes as necessary.

"Our Truck Visit Management solution is helping cargo handling agents, freight forwarding, and trucking companies across the globe to streamline their freight management. We're proud to have innovative companies such as Menzies Aviation and Griley Airfreight embrace our technology," Jean Verheyen, CEO Nallian, proudly said.

DHL and EnviroServe team up to bring battery recycling solutions to the Middle East

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

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

Amadou Diallo, CEO of DHL Global Forwarding, MEA, commented: "With DHL's extensive expertise in supply chain and EnviroServe's specialization in EV battery recycling, we are well-equipped

to address the unique challenge of the EV battery lifecycle. Together, we look forward to making a positive impact and shaping a cleaner, more sustainable future in the EV industry by creating a circular economy model."

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

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

Stuart Fleming, managing partner of EnviroServe, noted: "The regional market has been seeking solutions to compliant



From left: Samer Kaissi, DHL GF Country Manager for Dubai and Northern Emirates, Stuart Fleming, Managing Partner of EnviroServe, & Amadou Diallo, CEO, DHL GF MEA. Image Source: DHL GF

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



New British cargo airline One Air completes inaugural flight & begins preparations to welcome second freighter

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

The 100-ton payload arrived at London Heathrow from Jinan-Shandong on July 25, marking the commercial launch of the new airline.

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

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

"It is a proud day for us to operate our first customer flight and marks the start of our strategic development plan to build One Air's reputation with clients in prime

air cargo markets around the world," said One Air's CEO, Paul Bennett.

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

"We are proud to have shared this milestone with One Air and thank everyone connected with the flight from China for a highly efficient operation and customer experience. It is pleasing to see a new British cargo airline take to the air and we wish One Air great success as it works to establish its place in the global market," said Jacky Wu, General Manager of Shandong Glory.

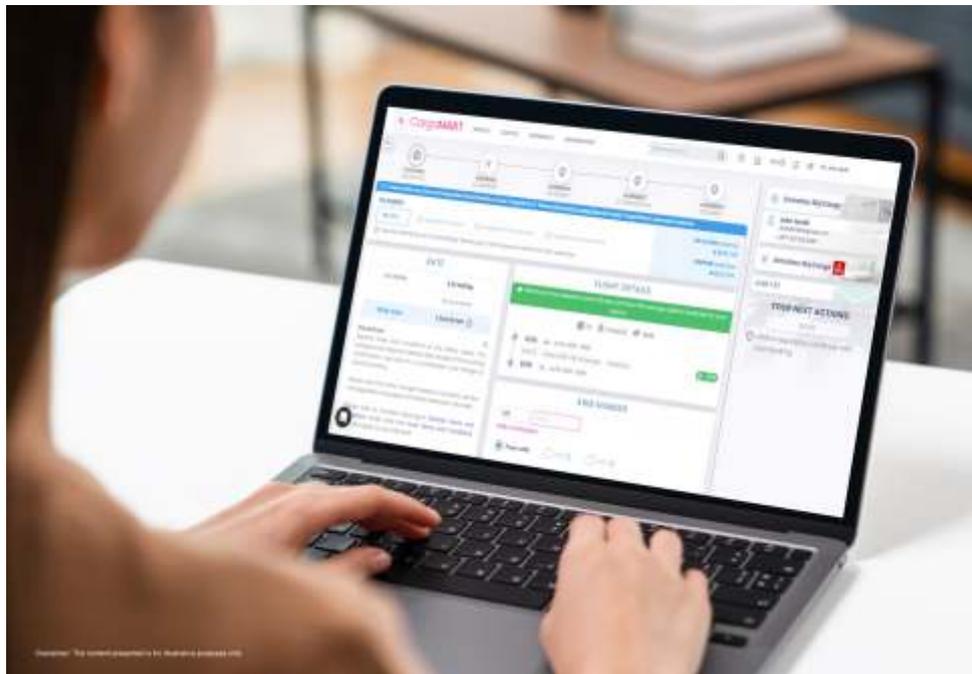
Emirates SkyCargo advances digital customer experience with CargoAi

Dubai, UAE: Emirates SkyCargo is now live on CargoAi's marketplace solution, CargoMART, further advancing its digital customer experience and optimizing the booking process with real-time information.

The partnership was recently launched in the Netherlands, Spain, and France, and will open up to customers in select countries across Europe, the Americas, Africa, the Far East, and Australasia in the coming months.

Through the CargoMART solution, customers will be able to access Emirates SkyCargo schedules, tariffs, and contract rates, along with real-time access to available capacity, enabling immediate bookings 24/7. On the backend, the partnership drives greater efficiency and accuracy. Once the system is fully operational, over 10,000 freight forwarders on CargoAi's database will have access.

"As we increase our digital connectivity, we are able to offer more choices for our customers to connect with Emirates SkyCargo's market-leading capabilities and extensive global network. CargoAi's digital touchpoint enables both our existing and new customers from across the world to book with Emirates SkyCargo at their convenience, providing an additional channel that further strengthens our world-class customer experience," said Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo.



Matt Petot, CEO of CargoAi, said they are thrilled to partner with Emirates SkyCargo. "This collaboration exemplifies our commitment to driving efficiency and accuracy in airfreight, and we look forward to further strengthening the world-class customer experience provided by Emirates SkyCargo," he said.

Emirates SkyCargo's five core products are listed on CargoMART, including Emirates Fresh and Emirates Fresh Breathe, an integrated and responsive cool chain designed for perishables; Emirates AOG for time-critical aircraft parts; Emirates Airfreight Priority for urgent shipments that depend on speed and reliability; and Emirates Airfreight for the quick and careful transport of general cargo.



Lufthansa Cargo and Avflight upgrade cargo operations at Detroit Metropolitan Airport

Frankfurt, Germany: With ground handling agent Avflight, Lufthansa Cargo says it is moving operations onto the apron at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) in the state of Michigan in the USA.

Lufthansa Cargo said the on-airfield cargo warehousing facility will allow handling of international air cargo with streamlined operations and shorter distances for loading and unloading aircraft. Thus, will give customers improved product offerings and reduced handling times while benefiting from efficiency gains in its operation.

During the three-year planning phase for this major project, Lufthansa Cargo identified in Avflight a suitable local partner with ambitions to grow in the cargo business. With currently more than 500 tons of cargo handled per year on seven weekly passenger flights, multiple truck connections to Chicago (ORD) and ad-hoc services offered, Detroit is an important location for Lufthansa Cargo in the automotive-driven region of Michigan with potential for expansion.

The relocation of the so-called warehouse in direct proximity to the apron is a project with two phases.

Beginning in August 2023, with Avflight's support, Lufthansa Cargo is operating out of a former aircraft hangar that was converted into a temporary cargo warehouse. The more direct location allows for shorter handling times and offers opportunities to meet the requirements of special cargo shipments, such as animals, valuable cargo and dangerous goods shipments, even more comprehensively.

In the second phase of the project, Lufthansa Cargo will support Avflight in designing a new cargo facility next to the existing structure, which the handling partner is under contract with the airport to construct.

Working closely together, the two partners will efficiently, sustainably and attractively design the warehouse's infrastructure to meet the needs of air cargo customers, including those in the premium segment.

Lufthansa Cargo plans to move into this Avflight-operated facility upon its completion. Discussions on this second phase of development are in the preliminary stages, but the goal is to be operational by the end of 2024.

"In Detroit, there is a great demand for secure and professional transport solutions, for example, urgently needed components in the automotive sector. There is a lot of weekly

Beginning in August 2023, with Avflight's support, Lufthansa Cargo is operating out of a former aircraft hangar that was converted into a temporary cargo warehouse. The more direct location allows for shorter handling times and offers opportunities to meet the requirements of special cargo shipments, such as animals, valuable cargo and dangerous goods shipments, even more comprehensively.

freight traffic here between Michigan and the world, including destinations in Germany, Europe, South Africa and Thailand. The expansion of our warehouse capacity in this direct apron-accessible location helps us improve the handling processes for faster and more direct service and also enables Lufthansa Cargo to offer additional premium products and services to our customers," explains Henry Julicher, Head of Sales and Handling Michigan and Head of Sales Midwest at Lufthansa Cargo.

Stephanie Abeler, Vice President and Head of Region Americas at Lufthansa Cargo, added, "Together with Avflight, we are creating an ideal basis with a future-oriented cargo location in Detroit to further position ourselves in the market as a reliable and professional partner for our cargo customers and thus actively implement the 'enabling global business' idea from Michigan by investing in a modern infrastructure as well as cost- and time-efficient handling processes."



Aramex revenue for H1 2023 dropped but remains optimistic



Dubai, UAE: Aramex (DFM: ARMX) a leading global provider of comprehensive logistics and transportation solutions, reported its revenues for the first half of the year totaled AED2.8 billion, down 5 percent YoY, but the company remains optimistic that better days are ahead.

Aramex said that in line with the global industry trend of softening volumes, the Q2 2023 Revenue also declined by 8%. However, excluding the currency exchange impact, the Q2 Revenue fell by 5%.

Worth noting that Q2 2023 had fewer working days, mainly due to the shift of Islamic public holidays observed in certain markets during the quarter, compared to the same period of last year where these public holidays fell during Q3 2022, it added.

Aramex maintained a robust Gross Profit Margin of 25% over both the half-year and second quarter periods, despite a 3% and 9% YoY reduction in Gross Profit for H1 and Q2 2023, respectively.

The company said this reflects Aramex's consistent investments in efficiency-maximizing initiatives and cost-optimization strategies, enabling it to navigate economic cycles with strength.

Net Profit of AED 42.8 million was reported in the first half of 2023, compared to AED 91.9 million in H1 2022, with a similar

decline of 57% for Q2 2023. Aramex attributed this to a trickle-down impact from topline softening, as well as an increase in finance expenses associated with the MyUS acquisition, which is in line with Company's strategy to leverage the balance sheet.

Nonetheless, Aramex maintained a robust balance sheet position with Net Debt-to-EBITDA ratio of 2.6x and a healthy cash balance of AED 502 million as of 30 June 2023.

"Reflecting on Aramex's financial results for the first half of 2023, we performed robustly, despite continued challenges in an environment characterized by cost inflation, lower freight rates, softening shipment volumes, and FX fluctuations. Therefore, our focus in the second half of the year will remain firmly on cost reduction and further efficiencies on Operating Expenses and SG&A, so that we can continue to be a very well-positioned, disciplined, and agile business, with a strong balance sheet and key competitive strengths for the long-term," said Othman Aljeda, Chief Executive Officer of Aramex.

Aljeda said the company recognizes the need for agility and adaptability in today's ever-evolving landscape by investing in cutting-edge technologies and optimizing its revenues.

"We will continue to reposition the business to higher margin accounts, including specialized verticals and more B2B business. We continue to focus on quality revenues and strategic growth to create long-term value for our stakeholders," he said.

Aramex's International Express business reported AED 372 million in Gross Profit for H1 2023, a YoY increase of 1%. The corresponding Gross Profit Margin increased to 33% benefitting from MyUS, operational efficiency and improvements in linehaul costs.

In Q2 2023, the International Express product handled a total of 5.5 million shipments, experiencing a YoY decline of 7% in line with the global industry's overall performance. Amidst the challenging market conditions, there were positive signs of stabilization, with a noteworthy 2% growth in shipments during Q2 2023 compared to the first quarter of the year, signaling an encouraging trend in the post-pandemic environment.

Dibber teams up with Noon Toys to indulge children with fun and learning this summer

Dubai, UAE: Dibber, the leading global education provider and #1 Scandinavian and Nordic education expert, announced it's collaborating with noon, the renowned e-commerce marketplace, to educate children this summer while having fun.

They are collaborating to provide families in the UAE with an extraordinary opportunity to indulge their little ones in a summer of fun and learning while enjoying discounts on a diverse range of noon toys.

The hot summer deal, available for a limited time, will enable children and parents to access a wide range of educational and entertaining toys through the noon online platform.

By leveraging noon's extensive reach and reputation as a trusted brand in the region, Dibber aims to create a positive impact on young minds, fostering a lifelong love for learning.

"We are thrilled to partner with noon and provide families with a

summer deal on an exciting assortment of toys," said Nahi Rahal, Regional Managing Director (MENATP) at Dibber. "At Dibber, we believe that play is an essential component of a child's development, and this collaboration allows us to further enrich their learning journey through engaging and educational toys. We are confident that this partnership will inspire children, boost their creativity, and contribute to their holistic growth."

With this new collaboration, Dibber says it reinforces its commitment to expanding its footprint in the UAE beyond the classrooms.



Abu Dhabi, UAE: Oman and Etihad Rail Company (OERC), the developer and operator of the UAE-Oman Rail Network signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Shadeed Iron & Steel (Jindal), a leading integrated steel producer in the GCC, to establish a sustainable end-to-end transport logistics solution between Jindal's steel complex at Sohar Port and the United Arab Emirates, via the UAE-Oman Rail Network.

The MoU will allow Jindal to annually transport up to 4 million tons of raw materials and finished products from its steel complex at Sohar Port to the UAE's thriving markets.

Under the terms of the agreement, OERC will leverage its state-of-the-art rail network to support Jindal in optimizing operational integration through facilitated loading and unloading processes while guaranteeing rolling stock and facilities' requirements of iron ore and steel.

Commenting on the agreement, Mohammed bin Zahran Al Mahrouqi, Deputy CEO of OERC, said: "Our partnership with Jindal Shadeed Group reinforces Oman and Etihad Rail Company's commitment to improving logistics services to meet the future needs and expectations of our customers by providing comprehensive solutions and stimulating the growth of various industrial sectors within Oman and the UAE. Furthermore, the MoU will enable Jindal to enhance its supply chain efficiency, benefiting from the UAE-Oman Rail Network's fast, cost-effective, and sustainable services."

Harsha Shetty, CEO of Jindal, for his part, said: "This is an important milestone for our company as we look forward to further expanding the reach of our high-quality, industry-leading products in the region and beyond. Our ability to seamlessly transport nearly 4 million tons of raw materials will greatly help us in our operations, supporting our ambition to reduce our carbon footprint."

Through this collaboration, Jindal will not only streamline its transportation and logistics operations but also further advance its sustainability objectives and strengthen its green

Oman and Etihad Rail Company partner with Jindal to establish sustainable logistics solution



value chain. OERC will ensure an environmentally friendly transportation and logistics solution through the Oman-UAE Rail Network, thus, contributing to the reduction of CO2 emissions in Oman and the UAE, in line with their national goals of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

OERC has recently entered several commercial and investment partnerships with major international players in various industrial sectors to provide innovative logistics solutions and facilities. This opens up new corridors for economic cooperation and unlocks promising opportunities for sustainable economic growth in Oman, the UAE, and the wider region.

DB Schenker detection dogs have a nose for prohibited items



London Heathrow, UK: DB Schenker in the UK says it is using free-running explosive detection dogs on a daily basis to detect prohibited items from certain airfreight shipments.

The dogs trained to screen cargo are from a variety of breeds and chosen specifically for their sense of smell. These include Spaniels, Labradors, German Shepherds, and Golden Retrievers.

The highly trained dogs receive between six- and 12-month intensive instruction before they become part of the team and are particularly chosen for their ability to detect explosives. A new cohort is currently also in training to be able to sniff out lithium batteries. They are operating at Heathrow and Manchester and will soon also feature in Glasgow.

"The speed and accuracy of the screening they undertake has

become an essential part of our operation and they give us a reliable method of detecting certain items which would otherwise prove difficult using other approaches," said DB Schenker's UK Aviation Security Manager Ian Dallow.

Not only are the dogs used to search regular airfreight shipments, but their keen sense of smell makes them ideal for outsize shipments which have been tendered as airfreight but are too large to pass through an X-Ray machine.

The dogs can discover anything untoward in such a shipment much faster than a manual search by humans and this ability to expedite the screening process ensures swift and efficient movement of customer goods.

DB Schenker personnel at its multimodal locations around the country are involved in preparing freight for screening and ensuring the screening activities are carried out in accordance with strict regulations, so the use of dogs provides a highly effective additional screening method.

The purpose of using dogs is to look for things that aren't supposed to be there. They are looking for prohibited items, for example, a part of an explosive device. There are different rules for cargo and passenger aircraft so it is important to be fully conversant with all rules which apply to each aircraft type. A knife in a cargo shipment may not be dangerous but may be prohibited in baggage.



Schiphol Airport is more than just a hub. It's a nexus of innovation and collaboration. Our journey is one of continuous evolution, driven by the commitment to excellence."

Joost van Doesburg

Head of Cargo
Schiphol Airport



Schiphol Airport

A nexus of innovations and collaborations

By Mohammed Irshad

Nestled nine kilometers or about 5.6 miles southwest of Amsterdam in the municipality of Haarlemmermeer, Schiphol Airport stands as the Netherlands' largest airport and ranks third in Europe in terms of passenger traffic.

With an average annual cargo tonnage of 1.74 million, it is also the 4th busiest cargo airport in Europe.

Originally established as a military airbase in 1916, this aviation marvel has transformed into a bustling hub of international travel and commerce. Having opened its gates to civilian aircraft in 1920, Schiphol had since burgeoned into a global juggernaut, welcoming over 72 million passengers in 2019 and facilitating flights to over 320 destinations worldwide.

Within Schiphol's single terminal building, divided into three departure halls, a tapestry of connectivity is woven. The airport serves as a hub for prominent carriers like KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, and easyJet.

Furthermore, Schiphol Airport's strategic location and state-of-the-art facilities have established it as a vital player in the global air cargo network. With its cutting-edge cargo handling capabilities and relentless dedication to efficiency, Schiphol contributes significantly to the seamless movement of goods across continents.

Air Cargo Update had the distinct privilege of engaging in a comprehensive dialogue with Joost van Doesburg, the Head of Cargo at Schiphol Airport. This conversation delves into the heart of Schiphol's remarkable journey, illuminating its evolution into a dynamic air cargo powerhouse, and highlighting the commitment of its leaders to propel the industry forward through innovation and excellence.

A Journey of Transformation

Joost van Doesburg's journey to becoming the Head of Cargo at Schiphol Airport is one woven with diverse experiences and a deep-rooted commitment to the air cargo industry.

With an impressive background advocating for industrial firms, pharmaceutical companies, and high-tech enterprises within the sector, his path laid the foundation for his current role. His advocacy role extended to optimizing the movement of goods via air cargo, bridging the gap between senders and recipients.

This role, coupled with leadership positions in airline pilot associations and a major general union, provided him with a holistic understanding of the industry's inner workings, from cleaners to security personnel to handling staff.

Reflecting on his journey, van Doesburg shares, "Shifting my perspective to engage with unions, employees, and shippers directly has been enlightening. It's like looking at the industry through a different lens. My diverse experiences have equipped me with a holistic understanding of the various stakeholders involved, and I'm excited to contribute to the continued growth and success of this vital sector."



"Our focus lies on enriching our importance in terms of quality, catering to high-demand and specialized cargo. Our ambition is to remain a pioneering hub that not only stands out for its logistical excellence but also for its unwavering commitment to tailored solutions, making a lasting impact in the cargo landscape for years to come."

This journey signifies a commitment to holistic growth, an attribute that has become synonymous with Schiphol Airport's trajectory.

Smart Cargo Hub: Quality Over Quantity

Schiphol Airport's transformation from aspiring to be the largest cargo airport in Europe to becoming a smart cargo hub emphasizes a shift from quantity to quality.

The concept emerged as a response to the realization that full capacity had been reached, urging a strategic shift that prioritizes excellence over sheer numbers. "Our approach centers on becoming more intelligent, adaptive, and responsive to industry demands," van Doesburg explains.

He elaborates, "To achieve this, we made a decisive move two years ago by acquiring the Cargonaut port community system, which is tailored to our specific needs and operations. This system operates neutrally, welcoming collaboration with other IT service providers and creating substantial value for our community. It's an essential component in our vision of a smarter cargo hub."

The adoption of the Cargonaut port community system and the



substantial investment in the RIT port community system exemplify this shift. The consolidation of cargo activities on one side of the runway, along with the construction of a state-of-the-art cargo facility, signifies a unified cargo city. This move eradicates congestion, streamlines operations, and reduces the overall time taken from door to door.

The commitment to quality extends beyond physical facilities. Schiphol Airport is embracing innovation to refine ground operations, enhance truck accessibility, and provide customs agencies with timely information. Collaborations with the Netherlands Customs reflect a dedication to shaping a future of heightened efficiency and excellence.

Navigating Resource Constraints

Operating at full capacity presents unique challenges, and Schiphol Airport navigates these obstacles with a resolute commitment to cargo operations. By maintaining a baseline level of freighter operations, valuable slots allocated to freighters are preserved, ensuring stability and continuity for operators. "Preserving a baseline level of freighter operations is integral to our strategy," van Doesburg emphasizes.

He continues, "The well-connected network of destinations serviced by dedicated freighters and cargo holds of passenger aircraft remains a distinctive feature. Schiphol Airport's commitment to cargo operations ensures stability while catering to both cargo stakeholders and the broader aviation community."

Sculpting the Future Infrastructure

Investments in infrastructure are pivotal to Schiphol Airport's strategic direction. The consolidation of cargo facilities into a centralized cargo city enhances efficiency and collaboration. Initiatives like the "Smart Cargo Main Port" program focus on enhancing information flow within the road feeder network, bolstering the predictability of road feeder services. This provides reliable road transportation alternatives when air solutions are unavailable.



Sustainability has emerged as a paramount concern in the modern world, and Schiphol Airport is at the forefront of adopting sustainable measures.

"Undoubtedly, sustainability stands at the forefront of our priorities at Schiphol Airport. As the Netherlands seeks to reduce its environmental impact, we are leading the charge in adopting sustainability measures," van Doesburg asserted.

"The 'Secure Imports' program underscores our commitment to playing a more integral role in the Netherlands' economy. We're placing a greater emphasis on handling high-value goods, including pharmaceuticals and high-tech products. As part of this endeavor, we're investing in advanced IT solutions designed to enhance security measures," van Doesburg highlights. "These strategic investments reflect our commitment to innovation, security, and efficiency, positioning Schiphol Airport as a dynamic and secure hub for cargo operations."

Catering to Diverse Verticals

Schiphol Airport's diverse offerings encompass various sectors vital to global trade and transportation. "Among these verticals, the flower industry stands as a notable highlight. Schiphol Airport proudly holds the distinction of being Europe's premier flower hub," van Doesburg proudly states. "We play a pivotal role in the distribution of flowers across the continent, underscoring our significant contribution to the floral trade."

He continues, "Additionally, the pharmaceutical and high-tech verticals hold considerable importance in our operations. These sectors demand the utmost precision, security, and efficiency, and we have dedicated resources and capabilities to meet their unique requirements."

"Moreover, we have a focus on high-value goods, which encompasses valuables of various kinds. This vertical reflects our commitment to handling valuable cargo with the highest level of care and security."

"As we look ahead, our strategic vision places emphasis on high-



value goods, pharmaceuticals, and high-tech products. These verticals are aligned with our strengths and capacity, enabling us to provide optimal solutions for these critical industries. However, it's essential to note that our commitment to the flower industry remains unwavering. Even as we evolve and diversify, we continue to nurture our legacy as the flower hub of Europe, ensuring a comprehensive and dynamic cargo portfolio that meets the needs of various industries and trade partners," he further explained.

Sustainability: A Driving Force

Sustainability has emerged as a paramount concern in the modern world, and Schiphol Airport is at the forefront of adopting sustainable measures. "Undoubtedly, sustainability stands at the forefront of our priorities at Schiphol Airport. As the Netherlands seeks to reduce its environmental impact, we are leading the charge in adopting sustainability measures," van Doesburg asserted.

He elaborates, "As a state-owned airport, we're fully committed to becoming a leader not just in terms of quality, but also in terms of sustainability. One of our significant endeavors involves the reduction of noise and NOx emissions. This aligns seamlessly with the government's directive to enhance sustainability across all sectors. This underscores our determination to set a sustainable precedent for the aviation industry."

"The electrification of our ground equipment is a focal point in minimizing emissions and noise pollution within the airport environment. In terms of air traffic, we're implementing stringent criteria for freighters that can operate at our airport. We're prioritizing clean and quiet operations, and we're actively working towards accommodating only the most environmentally friendly and efficient freighters."

A Culture of Collaboration

The Smart Hub program embodies Schiphol Airport's collaborative spirit and its ability to leverage partnerships for innovation. "The essence of the Smart Hub program aligns remarkably well with the collaborative spirit that characterizes the Netherlands," van Doesburg notes. "Our nation has a rich history of cooperation, dating back centuries to our collective efforts in building protective dikes to combat the challenges of being a country below sea level."

Schiphol Airport's geographic advantage and well-connected network have attracted stakeholders who recognize the advantages of the airport's cooperative approach. "At the heart of this collaboration is Air Cargo Netherlands, an integral entity in our cargo community. This longstanding association comprises all airlines, airports, truckers, handlers, and forwarders. It's a comprehensive coalition representing the diverse segments of our industry," he explains. "This unity is a testament to our shared understanding that working together is key to unlocking the potential of a unique logistical solution."

The Digital Odyssey

Schiphol Airport's journey into digitalization is a testament to its commitment to innovation and efficiency. "Schiphol Airport has made substantial strides in the digitalization of cargo operations. At the core of our digital transformation is our dedicated port community system," van Doesburg emphasizes.

"This platform is integral to the cargo ecosystem in the Netherlands, with universal connectivity across the industry. All

stakeholders are seamlessly integrated into this system, rendering it an indispensable hub for efficient communication and collaboration.

"We're resolute in our commitment to minimize paper-based processes within the Dutch cargo landscape," he continues. "Our journey into digitalization is a testament to our commitment to innovation, efficiency, and environmental responsibility. As we continue to harness the power of technology, we're shaping a more agile, interconnected, and sustainable cargo ecosystem that sets new benchmarks for the industry."

E-commerce has become a driving force in cargo operations, and Schiphol Airport is primed to cater to its demands. "E-commerce undeniably represents the future of cargo operations. This surge in e-commerce cargo presents both opportunities and challenges," van Doesburg notes. "To address this, we're focused on enhancing our port community system's capacity to efficiently manage e-commerce data. Our objective is to streamline customs procedures and facilitate seamless processing for e-commerce shipments."

While e-commerce is a significant vertical, Schiphol Airport's commitment extends to a comprehensive range of cargo needs.

"Schiphol Airport remains committed to serving a diverse array of cargo needs. Our broad approach distinguishes us from airports that specialize solely in e-commerce, highlighting our commitment to offering a comprehensive range of cargo services that cater to the diverse needs of our industry and community," said van Doesburg.

Vision for the Future

Looking ahead, Schiphol Airport's roadmap for the next five years revolves around enriching its importance in terms of quality rather than sheer volume.

"Our focus lies on enriching our importance in terms of quality, catering to high-demand and specialized cargo," van Doesburg outlines. "Our ambition is to remain a pioneering hub that not only stands out for its logistical excellence but also for its unwavering commitment to tailored solutions, making a lasting impact in the cargo landscape for years to come."

Van Doesburg's journey and Schiphol Airport's evolution mirror a shared commitment to excellence. The emphasis on innovation, collaboration, sustainability, and digitalization forms the bedrock of their strategy.

In a world where adaptability is key, Schiphol Airport's journey is a testament to its resilience and determination to continue shaping the air cargo landscape for generations to come. With a roadmap focused on delivering exceptional care and attention to cargo, Schiphol Airport's journey continues to exemplify the spirit of excellence and adaptability in the air cargo industry.

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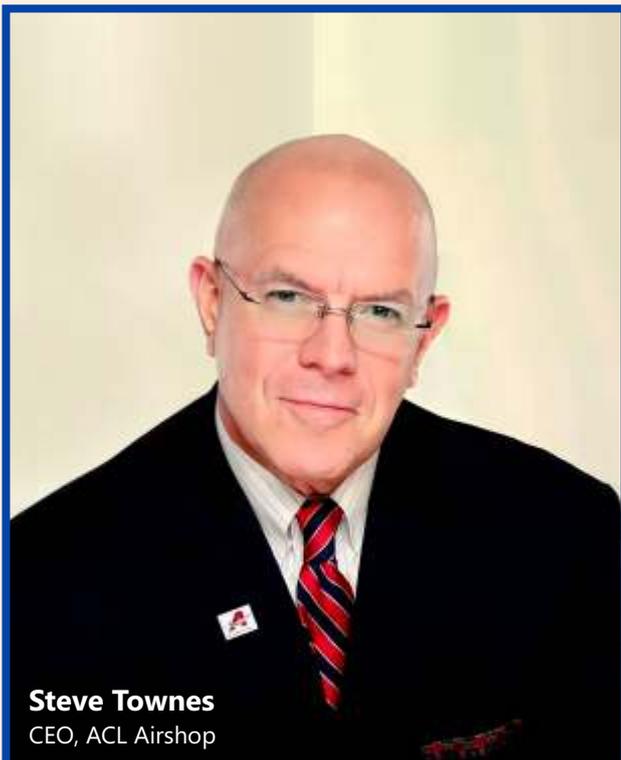


ACL Airshop:

Advancing innovations with 'digital suite'



First to offer Bluetooth tracking & tracing in air cargo ULDs, the company will showcase its new innovations at different air cargo trade shows around the world.



Steve Townes
CEO, ACL Airshop

Greenville, South Carolina: ACL Airshop made a giant leap in the air cargo industry when it offered for the first time the innovative Bluetooth tracking and tracing app in ULDs years ago.

Now, the company is once more poised to lead the industry with a suite of digital innovations that will definitely benefit customers and their shipments apart from further enhancing the sector's digitalization standards.

And those are reasons enough to put smiles on the faces of **ACL Airshop CEO Steve Townes and COO Jos Jacobsen.**

Over the past seven years, ACL Airshop steadily sustained growth with more plans across the world's six continents.

Istanbul, home to the world's largest airport, became ACL's 57th airport hub. And today, the company owns more than 70,000 ULDs apart from managing more than 100,000 ULDs for different airlines, airports, and other stakeholders in the supply chain.

The 'Uberization' of ULDs

The mere mention of the word "Uberization" makes Townes and Jacobsen gleam with happiness and hope. And why now? It's a fond way to depict the company's long-running digitalization strategy.

As the first-in-market to offer Bluetooth tracking & tracing of air cargo ULDs, and now various related technology and logistics innovations, ACL Airshop has made steady progress.

The company has invested substantial capital and manhours along that way. They call their efforts and investments the ACL Airshop "Technology Roadmap."

And what a road it has been so far for ACL Airshop. Over 15 years of plot twists, hurdles, and speed bumps, but always making progress even with occasional setbacks.

Taking inspiration from the genius and tenacity of Thomas Edison who failed 2,774 times before finally perfecting the electric light bulb, ACL Airshop is just beginning with its innovative projects.

FindMyULD and the next step

ACL Airshop's free app "FindMyULD" continues to gain traction with customers, handlers, and other users in the air cargo ecosystem.

Clients and their service partners, alike, have realized that it helps everybody get "on the same page" for ULD control, accountability, speed, and efficiency.

Fewer lost or unaccounted-for ULDs, fewer demurrage hassles, and better anticipatory planning. The Next Step: Linking the Airway Bill to the tracking systems.

Townes explains, "'Uberization' is coined as a generic term, akin to 'Formica' countertops or 'Kleenex' facial tissues. It speaks to the technology-driven convenience that has been universally defined by the Uber experience of hailing a car, versus chasing a taxi. Everything in the commercial model is in the palm of your hand."

Jacobsen adds, "That is exactly where we are headed with our customer-friendly technologies, our Digital Suite. Let's tie together the Airway Bill to the pallet tag and to the ULD serial number.



"In other words, we are making this happen. Period. No rest until we succeed." In the aviation press a couple of years ago, ACL Airshop was lauded for launching "M-Commerce" (M for "mobile")."

Jos Jacobsen
COO, ACL Airshop

Then link it with our global Ops Center and ERP tools so that, eventually, the client can check availability, click for instant Lease Orders, and know exactly where and when those ULDs will be ready for cargo-loading and fly-off,"

The ultimate goal is to have all the commercial paperwork and asset accountability automatically in the system, as seamlessly as possible. Easy? No, not at all. But is it worth the effort? Absolutely.

As ACL Airshop's board of directors once proclaimed: "To be a market leader, we must also be a technology leader."

From that point forward, the company has been hell-bent on leaning forward and advancing its goals and strategies. ACL has already successfully completed beta testing for the Airway Bill linkage.

ACL and its technology & software partners are focused on making the triggering of an urgent lease request or even a multi-year ULD contract fast and accurate from the palm of your hand. And all of it is tied directly into the company's ERP system for inventory control, billing, big data analytics, advance ordering min/max metrics, and other valuable tools. The technologies are already available, and this type of end-to-end system can be workable and commercially viable in the not-too-distant future.

"We are maniacs about Customer Service (in a good way). We will keep accelerating our headlong technology race toward the Uberization of ULDs for cargo customers. Once tied to the Airway Bill and the ERP Systems, any small carrier should be able to give the same



transparency and end-to-end accountability & efficiency to its shippers as the giant integrators—very cost-competitively,” Townes noted.

Jacobsen, stressed, “In other words, we are making this happen. Period. No rest until we succeed.” In the aviation press a couple of years ago, ACL Airshop was lauded for launching “M-Commerce” (M for “mobile”).

Transformative years

ACL's great “Ah-Ha! Moment” came when it rolled out its ULD Bluetooth tags and readers in an ever-growing Internet of Things, aimed at helping airlines achieve the speed, service, and accuracy that their shippers and other end-customers have come to expect in the high-speed world of e-Commerce.

That newest chapter started in early 2017 when the ACL Airshop group was huddled around a trade show table in Abu Dhabi, trying to figure out if a tiny technology company from New Zealand could help catapult the Technology Roadmap forward with a proven Bluetooth system. Decisions were made, the teaming partners moved it forward together, and the whole phenomenon has been evolving ever since.

For roughly 14 years prior to that, the company and its IT/Tech consultant created the proprietary system called “ULD Control,” which allowed clients to dump the clipboards and pencils and start modernizing and streamlining.

Barcoding was added. One step led to another on a continual pathway forward, constantly listening to customers' wish lists for what they needed to better control the logistics quagmire of ULDs at that time. Tinkering and tweaking endlessly to improve the ULD Management Systems.

That IT/Tech consultant from those early years? Well, he is, in fact, a champion-level competitive wind-surfer, is now the company's full-time global Technology Director, and is a shareholder in ACL Airshop.

ACL at various air cargo trade shows

ACL Airshop will be sending small teams of executives to an array of air cargo trade shows in the busy fall season of 2023.

The teams will be at ULD Care in Athens, which runs concurrently and is co-located with the Air Cargo Handling & Logistics conference and the Airport Services Association leadership forum which will be held in Greece as well. Jacobsen will serve on the industry Board of ULD Care.

Townes, a well-known serial entrepreneur who studied at US Military

That newest chapter started in early 2017 when the ACL Airshop group was huddled around a trade show table in Abu Dhabi, trying to figure out if a tiny technology company from New Zealand could help catapult the Technology Roadmap forward with a proven Bluetooth system. Decisions were made, the teaming partners moved it forward together, and the whole phenomenon has been evolving ever since.

Academy West Point and Harvard Business School recognized for his many business ventures involving successful buyouts and consolidations, meanwhile, is taking a small team from ACL to Baku, Azerbaijan in October for the Caspian Cargo Summit.

ACL is a Gold Sponsor at the event and Townes is expected to deliver his trademark high-energy presentation when he speaks before the delegates.

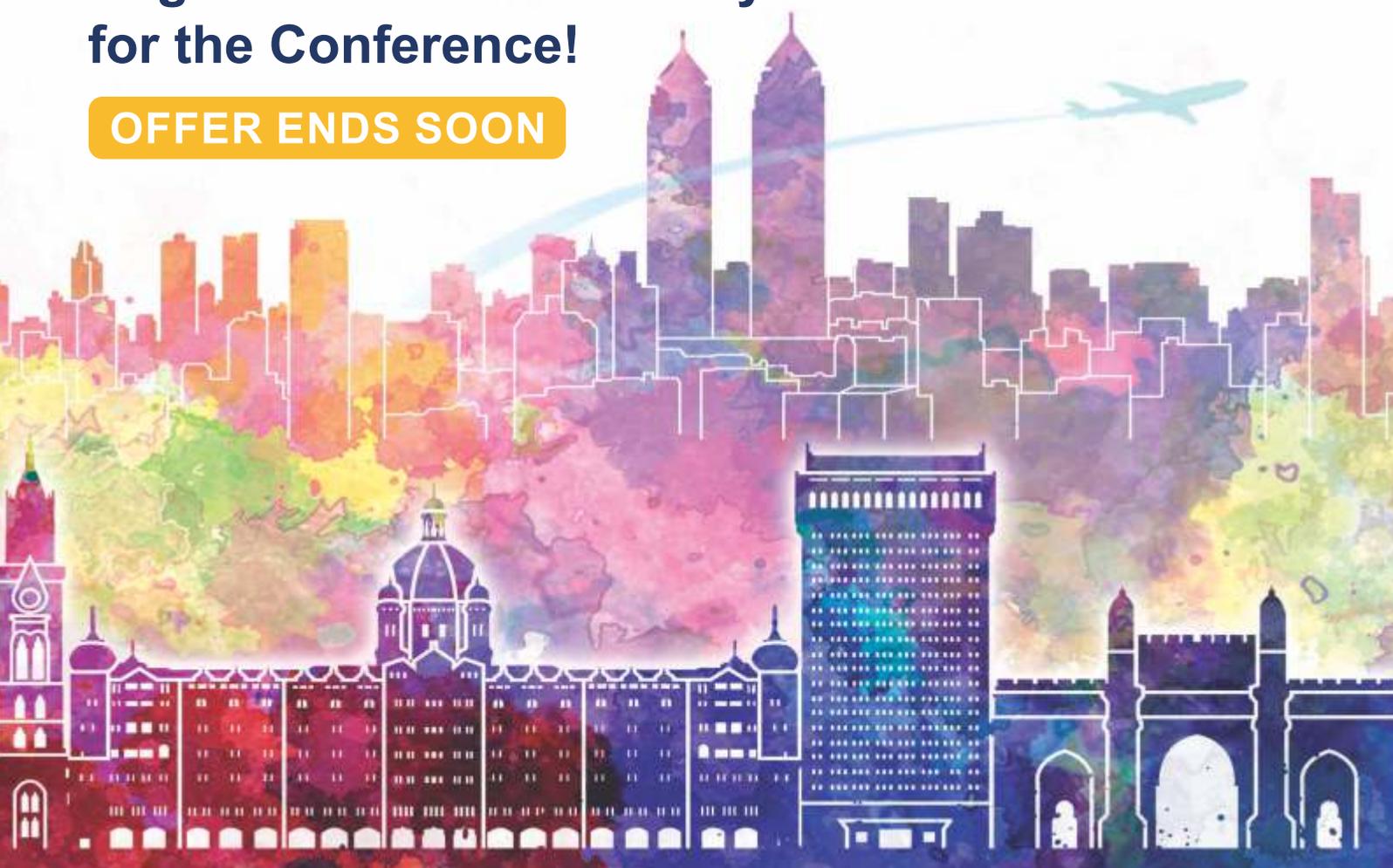
From October 31 to November 1, ACL is also participating at Air Cargo Americas in Miami, Florida. Topping off the efforts in early November in Singapore, ACL's Managing Director for APAC, Mark Edwards and the company's Asia-Pacific team are covering Air Cargo/Transport Logistics in Southeast Asia.

Hundreds of customers, industry partners, and prospects will be touched in this deliberate whirlwind of outreach and client communication, the company executives assured.

ACL's impressive portfolio includes award-winning technologies like FindMyULD. The company has also been awarded as a Top Employer in the United States and was recognized for its bona fide High-Performance Culture.

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Navigating a greener sky:

Forging sustainability pathways in air cargo

By Mohammed Irshad

Amidst the shifting horizons of air cargo dynamics, where speed and efficiency have long stood as foundational principles, a new imperative is ascending – that of sustainability.

With demands for goods rising as the global population increases, so are the environmental challenges that come with abuse of nature.

Climate change or the long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns have caused unprecedented flash floods, droughts, wildfires, super strong typhoons, landslides, and heat waves, among many other unforeseen calamities, across continents. Sea levels are also rising and oceans are becoming warmer. These phenomena have devastating economic impacts in billions, often with irreversible consequences to the displaced population.

With this, industries, including that of air cargo, find themselves at a crossroads to redefine their activities with a more ecologically conscious future in mind.

The air cargo sector stands at a pivotal juncture, where the rapid growth in worldwide goods requisition converges with an urgent call for environmental responsibility. Against the backdrop of climate change challenges, it must harmonize its role in economic development with responsible practices that curtail its ecological impact.



Elisabeth Oudkerk



Yossi Shoukroun

In this story, Air Cargo Update delves into the profound insights shared by distinguished industry authorities – Yossi Shoukroun, the CEO of Challenge Group, and Elisabeth Oudkerk, the Senior Vice President of Cargo Sales and Network Planning at Qatar Airways. Through their perspectives, we shed light on the path leading to sustainable air cargo operations.

Sustainable Logistics: Merging Efficiency and Ecology

Yossi Shoukroun, the CEO of Challenge Group, advocates for a holistic approach to sustainable logistics. “Low-emissions ground vehicles and alternative aviation fuels (SAF) are pivotal for our industry’s future,” Shoukroun emphasizes. He stresses the importance of packaging innovation and minimizing single-use plastics to reduce environmental impact. This

approach optimizes fleet utilization while reducing the carbon footprint.

Elisabeth Oudkerk, in her role as Senior Vice President of Cargo Sales and Network Planning at Qatar Airways, echoes this sentiment. "Introducing innovative technologies across air cargo operations and infrastructure, properly eliminating packaging waste, reducing single-use plastics, reducing fuel and energy consumption, optimizing logistics strategies, and using lighter weight materials can contribute greatly to every airline's operational performance and efficiency," Oudkerk elaborates. This comprehensive perspective highlights the multifaceted strategies that air cargo leaders are employing to minimize their ecological footprint.

Collaboration and Data Synergy: Charting Sustainable Routes

Addressing the complexity of air cargo operations, Shoukroun champions collaboration. "Effective data sharing enhances route optimization and significantly reduces our environmental impact," he states. By fostering cooperation, industry can collectively tackle challenges and enhance sustainability.

Oudkerk underlines the importance of collaboration's role in addressing climate change emissions. "As climate change is a global issue, working in collaboration with other stakeholders is critical to addressing what is considered one of the biggest global environmental challenges," she asserts. Qatar Airways Cargo is aligned with global industry goals and objectives to address this challenge. Collaboration and data sharing can significantly benefit air cargo operations.

By sharing real-time data on demand, capacity, and weather conditions, stakeholders can optimize routes, reduce empty flights, and enhance sustainability. This enables more efficient route planning, better resource allocation, and reduced fuel consumption.

Greener Packaging: From Innovation to Action

Sustainable packaging plays a vital role in the journey towards sustainability. Shoukroun's Challenge Group leads the charge in minimizing packaging waste. "Exploring lighter, environmentally conscious equipment and introducing reusable packaging solutions exemplify our commitment," he notes. By reducing single-use plastics and embracing eco-friendly

materials, industry demonstrates a conscientious approach to minimizing its ecological impact.

Oudkerk underscores the initiatives in sustainable packaging. "A major initiative in sustainable packaging in air cargo is to swap single-use plastic (SUP) for reusable plastic, biodegradable and bioplastic, cardboard, and paper," she states. The industry's shift towards sustainable packaging materials is a proactive step to align with the growing demand for environmentally conscious transportation solutions.

Eco-Efficiency and Technological Innovations: Redefining Sustainability

Advancements in aircraft technology hold the key to reshaping sustainability efforts. Shoukroun envisions a future that integrates eco-efficient operational technology. "The introduction of twin-jet aircraft to our fleet signifies our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint," he affirms. With aircraft like the B767 BDSF and the B777, industry can usher in a new era of greener skies.

Oudkerk mirrors this sentiment, focusing on Qatar Airways Cargo's young and fuel-efficient fleet. "Our mix of modern and fuel-efficient aircraft generates lower emissions and less noise," she explains. Qatar Airways Cargo's investment in engineering improvement packages for airframes and engines underscores their commitment to greener operations. This transition towards greener aircraft technology exemplifies the industry's dedication to environmental responsibility while meeting evolving commerce needs.

Transparency and Trust: The Heart of Sustainability

In a world driven by climate-conscious consumers, the air cargo sector must enhance transparency and communication. Shoukroun emphasizes open dialogue. "By sharing data and engaging transparently with clients, we foster trust," he notes. Transparent communication paves the way for lasting partnerships built on shared values.

Oudkerk reinforces this commitment, highlighting the significance of environmental leadership. "Transparency in the supply chain can help an organization improve its credibility and build customer trust," she says. Qatar Airways Group openly communicates its environmental performance through sustainability reports, fostering trust and promoting a culture of responsible environmental stewardship.

The Future of Sustainable Air Cargo: Embracing Technological Advancements

As the air cargo industry adapts to the demands of sustainability, technological innovations are pivotal. Oudkerk envisions a future where AI and data analytics play a central role. "The use of digital twins, AI-driven forecasting, and robotic systems are some of the innovations poised to drive the industry forward," she says. By harnessing the power of data and AI, Qatar Airways Cargo aims to optimize processes, enhance decision-making, and deliver an even better customer experience.

In addition, Oudkerk highlights the growing importance of blockchain technology. "Blockchain promises enhanced transparency and security in air cargo transactions," she explains. By creating a tamper-resistant and decentralized ledger, blockchain technology can streamline the flow of information and reduce processing time, ultimately benefiting the entire supply chain.

Charting a Sustainable Path Forward

The air cargo industry stands at the cusp of transformation, driven by the insights of Yossi Shoukroun and Elisabeth Oudkerk. The journey towards sustainability demands collective action, innovation, and collaboration.

As the industry integrates sustainable practices, it paves a path toward responsible growth. Through eco-friendly technologies, partnerships, and a minimized ecological footprint, the air cargo sector charts a course toward vibrant skies that reflect the values of a changing world.



Michigan to build 'Truck Stop of the Future'

In partnership with Daimler Truck North America and DTE Energy, the state of Michigan in the USA is building a Mobility Charging Hub to help companies transition their fleets to electric commercial vehicles. The hub's location sees more than 10,000 medium and heavy-duty commercial trucks travel daily across the state, or through its borders into Canada.

The State of Michigan announced a new, real-world prototype program known as the Mobility Charging Hub, which will help enable companies to transition their fleets to electric commercial vehicles (EVs) and future-proof their businesses by testing new technologies, digital services, and business models designed to accelerate deployment of commercial EVs at scale and modernize the truck stop experience.

The program will also serve the dual purpose of supporting passenger vehicle charging. Charging infrastructure remains a challenge for the broad deployment of EVs, but projects like this show that progress can be made toward a zero-emission future.

"Freight trucks drive commerce, deliver goods, and connect businesses throughout the nation, which is why it is critical to prepare this industry for the future," said Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II. "Our Mobility Charging Hub will help more companies electrify their fleets, cement Michigan's leadership in the future of freight, and rebuild our transportation infrastructure to support the economy of tomorrow.

"Over the past five years, our administration has made progress

investing in infrastructure and positioning Michigan as the best place to innovate the future. We are taking that one step further with this 'truck stop of the future.' We will work with anyone to ensure more innovators and companies can make it in Michigan," he added.

Access to federal funds

Michigan will have access to \$13 million in funding to support the Mobility Charging Hub development and secure partnerships with companies aiming to test and implement solutions related to EV innovation, fleet management, and overall ease of travel.

Initial project partners are industry leaders Daimler Truck North America (DTNA) and DTE Energy, who are fundamental in making this project become a reality.

With \$8.5 million in federal funding support from a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant award to Michigan's Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Michigan's Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME) will also establish a grant program



more than 10,000 medium and heavy-duty commercial trucks travel daily across the state, or across the state's borders into Canada.

Furthermore, Michigan accounts for 30% of all truck and rail freight between the United States and Canada, making Redford an ideal first location to concentrate on for this activation. In addition, DTNA's existing workforce training programs for EVs can be expanded in the future to provide training programs related to agnostic EV charging infrastructure with the establishment of the Mobility Charging Hub.

"At DTNA, we are driven by our vision of leading sustainable transformation at the speed of right," said Rakesh Aneja, Head of eMobility, DTNA, "After introducing Electric Island, a first-of-its-kind heavy-duty electric truck charging site in Portland, Oregon, and investing in Greenlane this year, a joint venture for public charging infrastructure, we are excited to partner with the State of Michigan and DTE in this innovative Mobility Charging Hub. Our 130-acre Detroit manufacturing plant, home to our diesel and electric Detroit Powertrains and powered by more than 3,000 employees, is the ideal location for this project."

"We're excited to partner with the State of Michigan and DTNA to put this site on a key highway corridor for commercial vehicles," said Tony Tomczak, Vice President of Electric Sales and Marketing at DTE. "As DTE's first venture into owning and operating EV chargers, we're a proud leader in building publicly accessible EV charging for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, giving our fleet customers another reason to electrify."

The announcement supports the state's broader mobility goals to provide safer, greener and more accessible transportation infrastructure & services established in the MI Future Mobility Plan. Specifically, Michigan aims to accelerate fleet transition to EVs by bolstering available resources and providing incentives to fund the transitions.

through the Mobility Charging Hub that will help fund future activations onsite.

As EVs become more commonplace across passenger and commercial transit alike, truck stops face a fundamental point of evolution to their existing service models. However, this challenge represents an opportunity to unlock new revenue in the trucking space, create new jobs, as well as redesign urban, suburban, and rural spaces into more sustainable community assets.

Through this new Mobility Charging Hub, Michigan seeks to develop the partnerships, integrations, and business models necessary for accelerating the transition to EVs at scale, while informing a playbook replicable across truck stop locations nationwide.

"Michigan's ability to retain its global position as the automotive capital of the world depends in part on our ability to attract and retain industry, as well as move goods domestically and across our nearby active international borders," said Kathryn Snorrason, Interim Chief Mobility Officer of the State of Michigan. **"This new innovation hub will help preserve Michigan's position in the automotive sector while allowing us to address emerging fleet management technologies."**

Multi-phased initiatives

The Mobility Charging Hub will tackle solutions development through several multi-phased initiatives. In the first phase, the core infrastructure to support EV charging at the site will be established as a foundation.

DTE will operate the core infrastructure of the Mobility Charging Hub – including EV charging solutions, solar canopies, and battery energy storage systems, and will look to partner with third-party operators for value-added services.

After successfully demonstrating usage and commercial viability in the first phase, OFME and its partners will work to enable the Mobility Charging Hub as a platform for testing innovation, similar to sites like the Detroit Smart Parking Lab, Michigan Central, and the FLITE Program at Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

Located at DTNA's multi-acre Redford facility near I-96, the site is already equipped with the necessary power, making it an ideal location for the Mobility Charging Hub. This location sees



TAPA EMEA reports a substantial 5-year fall in freight crimes targeting trucks in unclassified parking places



Freight thefts from trucks left in unclassified parking locations in Europe, the Middle East & Africa (EMEA) region significantly dropped since the pandemic as companies have taken more proactive action to protect the resilience of their supply chains, according to new data from the Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA EMEA).

Based on reports of criminal attacks on supply chains in EMEA reported to the TAPA EMEA Intelligence System (TIS), the supply chain security and resilience industry's Association's cargo crime database, 53.4% or 6,545 of the 12,259 incidents in 2019 were recorded in unclassified parking places.

In 2022, only 6.72% of the 12,378 freight thefts reported to TAPA EMEA stated a location of 'unclassified parking,' 832 incidents overall, while, for the 10,698 cargo crimes recorded so far in 2023, less than 4.6% were reported to the Association in unclassified parking places.

In 2018 and 2019, over 53% of all the incidents reported to TAPA EMEA annually stated this as the location. In the last three years, this percentage has been falling at an ever-faster rate; to 41.8% in 2020, 21.9% in 2021, and 6.7% last year. In 2023, the trend so far is even lower at 4.5%."

"TAPA EMEA members are contributing to this improvement because they can access our full Facility (FSR), Trucking (TSR) and Parking (PSR) industry Standards. It is only by adopting an end-to-end supply chain security

strategy that you can mitigate the growing cargo security risks companies are facing today. Our ability to also provide intelligence on thousands of cases of cargo crime, and training to support the implementation of our Standards, is enabling our members to maintain the highest levels of supply chain resilience," said Thorsten Neumann, President & CEO of TAPA EMEA.

"Additionally, given the substantial focus on supply chain resilience throughout the pandemic, and the need for companies to protect end-to-end deliveries to maintain client relationships, these statistics may also demonstrate much greater awareness among businesses and drivers of the need to think about and plan for, their parking requirements. This results in significantly fewer attacks on trucks in unsecured parking, and, consequently, lower product losses in these locations, which we naturally welcome."

While the number of these types of incidents shows a significant decline, based on recorded data, TAPA EMEA highlights high-value losses that can stem from poor parking decisions.

Losses reported to the Association's TIS database in 2023, in which criminals have targeted vehicles in unclassified parking places, have included:

- €1.5 million – theft of electronics from a truck parked in Lower Saxony, Germany, on 19 April
- €135,000 – a shipment of household appliances taken from a vehicle in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 14 January
- €102,000 – the theft of a truck in Lower Saxony, Germany, on 27 May
- €100,000 – 40 e-bikes stolen from a truck in Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, on 26 April

TAPA EMEA has been leading the drive to establish more secure truck parking places across the region to help companies protect drivers, vehicles, and their high-value/theft-targeted loads.

In 2018, the Association launched a new Parking Security Requirements (PSR) industry Standard for Parking Place Operators (PPOs) to help them identify the minimum security levels customers needed. PSR is now the most adopted Standard in EMEA for secure parking, with the TAPA EMEA PSR secure parking database currently giving its member companies access to over 20,700 parking places at 87 locations in 16 countries, up 10% year-on-year. A new 2023 version of PSR was launched in January after a review of the Standard to take onboard new or emerging security threats.

In April, TAPA EMEA was also awarded Official Training Centre status by the European Commission for its EU Safe & Secure Truck Parking Areas (SSTPA) Standard, which is also working to help fund and establish more professional parking locations in Europe. Companies can find out more about the Association's security standards at www.tapaemea.org

Qantas Group posts first full-year profit since COVID



Sydney, Australia: The Qantas Group says it posted its first full-year statutory profit since FY19 and will share the benefits by rewarding employees, reinvesting for customers, and returning capital to shareholders.

For FY23, the Group achieved an Underlying Profit Before Tax of \$2.47 billion and a Statutory After-Tax Profit of \$1.74 billion. This compares with \$7 billion in accumulated statutory losses over three prior years.

Underpinning the profit was the completion of the Group's \$1 billion recovery program (launched in the first year of those losses), a 132 percent increase in flying compared with FY22, and strong travel demand driving significantly higher revenue.

Operational performance improved considerably during the year after a challenging ramp-up, with Qantas achieving the best on-time performance of the major domestic airlines for 11 months out of 12 and Jetstar returning to pre-COVID levels. Customer satisfaction, while not back to pre-COVID levels, has also improved in line with operational performance.

Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce said the airline has made a substantial turnaround in both its finances and service over the past year—flying almost 70 billion more seat kilometers and serving over 46 million travelers.

"Flight delays and cancellations have largely returned to pre-COVID levels and we've shifted from heavy losses to a strong profit and pipeline of investment worth billions of dollars," said Joyce. "Travel demand is incredibly robust and we've taken delivery of more aircraft and opened up new routes to help meet it. It's because we're in a strong financial position that we're able to invest in new aircraft, new destinations and new training facilities – all things that will make us better in the future."

"Our people have done a superb job under very difficult circumstances. Today's result means more than 21,000 non-executive staff will receive up to \$6,000 worth of Qantas shares as a thank-you for their part in our recovery, plus another \$500 staff travel credit. This is in addition to a \$5,000 cash payment to eligible employees as new enterprise agreements are finalized," he added.

This strength enables the Group to keep investing heavily in customer experience, including firm orders for a further 24 Boeing and Airbus widebody aircraft from FY27 onwards to replace Qantas' A330 fleet, plus purchase the right options for future renewal and growth.

A major fare sale and over 1 billion in loyalty bonus points to say 'thank you' to customers have also been announced.

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How Etihad Airways did the impossible: A mid-air orchestra in a skydiving stunt

Stunt celebrates the launch of Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One



Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: Etihad Airways, the UAE's national airline, unveiled a video showcasing behind-the-scenes of its electrifying stunt in celebration of its collaboration with Paramount Pictures.

The stunt, watched by millions on the airline's social media channels, was released to celebrate the worldwide launch of Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One.

In the adrenaline-fueled video, Etihad Airways performed a stunt that had never been done before. Etihad put together a skydiving orchestra, that could play the instantly recognizable Mission: Impossible theme song while falling 13,000 feet at 120 mph through the air.

How the mission was completed



To pull it off, Etihad Airways, together with their advertising agency Impact BBDO, had to do the impossible - to find talented musicians who are also skilled skydivers.

The stunt took weeks of preparation. Each skydiver was given their part of music to practice and learn by heart, which they needed to be able to play perfectly despite the wild environment while skydiving.

In addition, custom rigging was made for each instrument to ensure the skydivers could safely play and pull their parachutes when the time came. A professional skydiving cinematographer jumped with them each time to capture it all, including group shots where each instrument affected the rate at which they fell. Throughout the process, safety was always the number

one priority.

The hours of practice and preparation paid off. Etihad was able to create an impossible orchestra of its own and highlight to the world that Etihad is an airline that pushes boundaries and makes it its mission to deliver incredible experiences and hospitality to its guests.

Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One



was written and directed by Christopher McQuarrie, and is now available to watch in cinemas across the globe.

Key parts of the movie were filmed at Abu Dhabi International Airport's Midfield Terminal, with one of the most thrilling and technically complex action scenes taking place on the building's 315-metre roof.

Throughout August, guests flying in Etihad's First and Business cabins will be treated to a cinema-style Movie Snacks menu and indulge in themed mocktails such as Mission Accomplished, Undercover Sipper, Secret Agent, and Thyme's Up.

Guests travelling on Etihad will be able to enjoy a dedicated Mission: Impossible channel on E-BOX, its inflight entertainment service. The channel will feature six of the Mission: Impossible movies as well as exciting behind-the-scenes content of Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One.

The behind-the-scenes Etihad Airways Mission: Impossible stunt video is available to here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_tJeuuwkj04&feature=youtu.be



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PROGRAM Highlights

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

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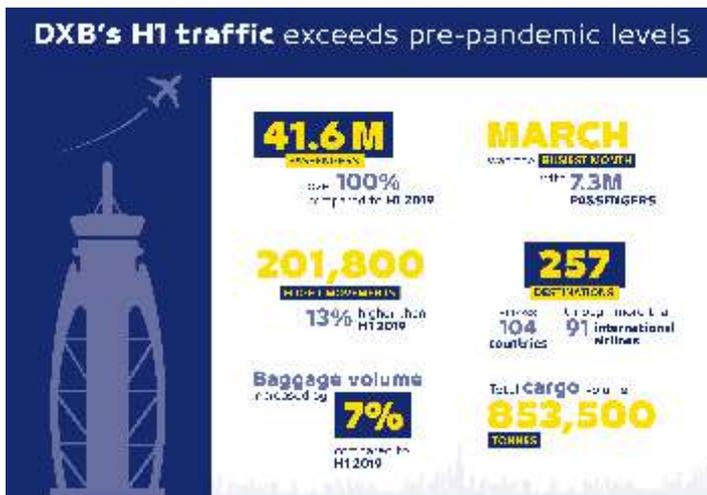
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DXB welcomes record 41.6 million travelers in H1 2023

increasing guest numbers, we take great pride in knowing we are continuously delivering with operational excellence and providing an exemplary guest experience. As we recover with our H1 traffic surpassing pre-pandemic levels, we remain committed to ensuring every guest who travels through our airport leaves with a smile," said Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, the operator of DXB.

DXB's baggage performance continues to be world-leading, and in H1 2023, baggage volume increased by 7% compared to pre-pandemic H1 2019 levels. This year so far, DXB handled approximately 37.2 million bags without compromising baggage delivery to customers – 92% of all baggage was delivered within 45 minutes to customers.

DXB received numerous accolades, including a certification from Airports Council International for its ongoing efforts to prioritize a safe and inclusive airport experience for guests with physical and hidden disabilities – a significant milestone. And welcomed several new airlines to the DXB family, further expanding connectivity to new destinations and countries.

India continues to lead as DXB's top destination country in terms of traffic, with 6m guests in the first half, followed by Saudi Arabia with 3.1m guests and the United Kingdom with 2.8m guests. Other leading destinations include Pakistan (2m guests), the U.S. (1.8m guests), Russia (1.3m guests) and Germany (1.2m guests).

The list of top city destinations was led by London with 1.7m guests, Mumbai (1.2m guests), and Riyadh (1.2m guests) following in a close third. DXB is connected to 257 destinations across 104 countries through more than 91 international airlines.

DUBAI, UAE: Dubai International (DXB) marked the first half of the year with a new milestone—welcoming more than 41.6 million travelers, surpassing its passenger traffic record in the 2019 pre-COVID period.

Cargo volumes at DXB also surged in the second quarter by 16.1% y-on-y at 453,500 tons. But total freight volume for the first half of the year fell by 6.2 percent compared to last year to 853,500 tons.

The world's busiest international hub said it registered a robust performance throughout the second quarter with passenger traffic surging by 42.7% year-on-year to reach 20.3 million. May was the busiest month during Q2, with 6.9 million travelers.

Propelled by a strong Q2, DXB's H1 traffic totalled 41.6m guests, up 49.1% compared to 27.9m recorded in H1 2022. DXB handled a total of 201,800 flights in the first half, up 30.2% year on year, up 13% compared to the same period in H1 2019. The average number of guests per flight during the first half reached 214, while the load factor was 77%.

"It's been a rewarding first half for Dubai International and amidst

India to build 9 'greenfield' airports and 41 old airports to be upgraded

New Delhi, India: India will build nine new "greenfield" airports to meet the steep rise in domestic and international air passenger traffic, the Emirates news agency WAM reported.

WAM added at least 41 existing airports in India are being upgraded with state-of-the-art infrastructure and new facilities at a cost of rupees 980 billion (about US\$12 billion).

The high capital expenditure plan for upgrading existing airports with heavy traffic is being undertaken primarily by the Airports Authority of India, Retired General V K Singh, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, said in a written communication to the Parliament.

Under the Indian government's Greenfield Airports Policy (GFAP), 21 new airports were sanctioned "in-principle" some time ago, Singh said. "Out of these, 12 greenfield airports have been operationalized."

According to the GFAP, "If any developer, including a state government, desires to develop an airport, they are required to identify a suitable site and get the pre-feasibility study conducted for the construction of the airport and submit a proposal to the central government for site clearance. This will be followed by in-principle approval."

Kannur in Kerala state, which enjoys heavy traffic to and from the Gulf, is one of the 12 greenfield airports which have become functional under the GFAP. Calicut, also in Kerala with a high number of passengers and airlines from the GCC countries, is one of the airports being upgraded, the Minister said.





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

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

Event Format

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

Exhibitors Profile

AIRCRAFT & HELICOPTER MANUFACTURERS	AIRCRAFT INTERIORS	AIRCRAFT MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT COMPANIES
AIRLINES, AIRLINE SERVICES & CARGO	MRO	SPACE & DRONES INDUSTRY
AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE	AIRCRAFT ENGINE MANUFACTURERS	SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Contact Details

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www.wings-india.co.in



Nanterre, France: VINCI Airports had taken over the operations of seven airports in Cabo Verde, a popular tourist destination in Africa known for its volcanic islands and beautiful scenic spots.

This developed after VINCI announced it had secured EUR60 million in financing its concession agreement with the government of Cabo Verde made in July 2022. World Bank-IFC, Proparco (France), and DEG (Germany) are financing the project under the Sustainability-Linked Financing (SLF) Framework.

"We are proud of the confidence placed in us by the Cape Verdean government, which has entrusted VINCI Airports with the responsibility of supporting the country's growth in tourism while ensuring the environmental transformation of airports. We warmly welcome our new colleagues to the network and look forward to getting to work," said Nicolas Notebaert, CEO of VINCI Concessions and President of VINCI Airports.

VINCI Airports takes over operations of 7 airports in Cabo Verde

Part of the financing agreement deal with the banks is for VINCI to initiate efforts to reduce CO2 emissions at the seven airports in Cabo Verde as well as introduce the Airport Carbon Accreditation program.

VINCI will now fund, operate, maintain, extend, and modernize these airports over the next 40 years, alongside its Portuguese subsidiary (ANA-Aeroportos de Portugal), which will hold 30% of the concession company.

Cabo Verde welcomed 2.2 million passengers in 2022, approximately 80% of the total in 2019, and has solid potential.

VINCI Airports says it will open new routes by promoting the archipelago's attractive features for tourists, including expanding the hospitality sector, a wide choice of sports activities and natural surroundings, and sunny winters. It also plans to roll out an environmental action plan including the development of renewable energy production at airports.

The deal also means some 300 Cabo Verde airport employees will now be under VINCI, the world's biggest private airport operator in the world with 72 airports in 13 countries under its portfolio.

Brussels Airport welcomes 2.3 million passengers in July

Brussels, Belgium: Summer holidays in Europe kicked off in Brussels Airport on a positive note with some 2.3 million passengers welcomed at its facilities in July, up by 5 percent compared to July 2022.

Brussels Airport said the holiday exodus was more staggered for the first time since the summer holidays in the French-language schools began a week later than those in the Dutch-language schools.

The 10 most popular countries in July for travelers this summer include Spain, Turkey, Greece, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, the United States, France, and the United Kingdom. But while the airport was happy about its growing passenger traffic, it noted an 8 percent decline on cargo volumes in July 2023 compared to the same period last year.

"In July, the flown cargo volumes at Brussels Airport



decreased by 8% to a total of 48,193 tons. For the global cargo volume, there is a decline of 11 percent compared to June 2022, to a total of 57,272 tons. This decline is largely due to a 24% decrease in trucked volumes," Brussels Airport said in a statement.

The primary import regions are Asia, Africa, and North America. For export, Asia tops the list followed by North America and Africa.



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flydubai grows its African network with the launch of flights to Mombasa in Kenya

Dubai, United Arab Emirates: flydubai is launching flights to Mombasa from 17 January 2024, becoming the first national carrier to operate direct flights from Dubai and the UAE to the coastal city in southeast Kenya.

The airline said flights to Moi International Airport (MBA) will operate four times a week from Terminal 3 at Dubai International (DXB). With the launch of operations to Mombasa, flydubai grows its network in Africa to 11 destinations in 10 countries, which includes Addis Ababa, Alexandria, Asmara, Dar es Salaam, Djibouti, Entebbe, Hargeisa, Juba, Mogadishu and Zanzibar.

"We remain committed to opening up underserved markets and supporting Dubai's aviation hub. Dubai has seen steady growth in investment from Africa since Expo 2020, with



more than 26,000 African companies registered with Dubai Chamber. Our direct flights to Mombasa from January and our growing operations in Africa will further support free flows of trade and tourism between the UAE and the East African markets," said Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai.

"We see a lot of potential in the African markets and we look forward to growing our presence in the continent as we continue to grow our network and fleet in the coming years," added Al Ghaith.

Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya and is known for its ancient architecture and beautiful sandy beaches. The city plays a vital role in import and export trade, and is a gateway into East Africa, serving not only Kenya but its neighboring countries as well.

Commenting on the start of flights, Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations (UAE, GCC, Africa and the Indian Subcontinent) at flydubai, said: "Africa is very important for flydubai and we are always exploring opportunities to better serve the market with reliable options to travel conveniently to Dubai and further afield onto the combined flydubai and Emirates network."



AviLease to acquire Standard Chartered's aircraft leasing business for \$3.6bn

RIYADH, KSA: AviLease, the rising global aircraft lessor wholly owned by the Public Investment Fund (PIF), Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, announced it has entered into a definitive agreement to purchase the aircraft leasing business of Standard Chartered, which includes Dublin-based Pembroke Group.

The acquisition will bring together two strategically complementary businesses, providing AviLease scale, global diversification, and the opportunity to leverage Standard Chartered's best-in-class team and operating capabilities.

As part of the \$3.6bn acquisition, AviLease will acquire a portfolio of 100 narrow-body aircraft while also becoming a servicer for another 22 aircraft. The combined platform will own and manage 167 of the latest technology, fuel-efficient aircraft, consisting of 145 owned valued at circa \$6bn and 22 managed aircraft valued at circa \$800mn leased to 46 airlines globally. The transaction is expected to close in Q4 2023.

As part of the transaction, AviLease successfully arranged \$2.1bn of competitive bridge financing commitments from four banks: BNP Paribas, Citibank N.A., HSBC Bank Middle East and MUFG Bank.

"The Standard Chartered leasing business is an industry-leading platform combined with a team of high-caliber professionals with an outstanding reputation. This acquisition will propel AviLease and will in turn support Saudi Arabia's aviation ecosystem, on our path to help realize the Saudi Vision 2030's objective of diversifying the economy and adding high value employment opportunities for Saudi citizens," said AviLease Chairman Fahad Al-Saif.

AviLease CEO Edward O'Byrne, describe the deal as a "fantastic next step in AviLease's young existence," adding, "Equally important is the ability for us to combine forces and leverage the high-quality capabilities of the Standard Chartered platform. We have the ambition to become a top-10 global aircraft lessor and this acquisition brings us one step closer."

Simon Cooper, CEO of Corporate, Commercial & Institutional Banking and Europe & Americas at Standard Chartered, meanwhile, said: "We wish AviLease every success with its strategy to develop further the business for continued growth, and delivering on its ambition, to be a significant global player in the aviation leasing sector. I want to thank our Standard Chartered Aviation Finance colleagues, whose strong commitment to building an outstanding franchise over more than 15 years has enabled the success of this transaction."



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Air Premia's cargo network is expanding

PARIS/SEOUL: Frankfurt & Newark have been added to Air Premia's summer flight schedule out of Incheon Airport & Globe Air Cargo Korea will soon also be promoting the cargo capacity of more new destinations in Europe, Asia, & the US this year.

Between 150 and 200 tons of cargo now pass through Air Premia's Incheon (ICN) warehouse each week, to top destinations across Asia, Europe, and the US.

With flights to Los Angeles (LAX) in the summer of 2022, Air Premia became the first Korean Hybrid Service Carrier to offer a scheduled US destination in its network. That has now grown to two since Newark (EWR) operations began on 22 May 2023. In Europe, charter services starting this summer include Frankfurt (FRA), Barcelona (BCN), and Oslo (OSL).

With Air Premia primarily managing its passenger services, Globe Air Cargo Korea is on hand to ensure that all cargo duties are covered, from cargo sales and reservations to managing the handling of regular and full charter flights. A wide range of commodities travel into and out of the airline's main hub at Incheon Airport, including air & sea e-commerce shipments, electronic equipment, machinery, and auto spare



parts, for example.

"Globe Air Cargo Korea has diligently supported Air Premia from the very beginning of its cargo journey just one and half years ago. Since then, Air Premia's fleet has grown to five Boeing 787-900, with another four aircraft to come before the end of 2024, and it is well on target to achieving profitability in 2024 as planned," H.E. Shin, CEO of Globe Air Cargo Korea, details. "In that time, Globe Air Cargo Korea has created a firm cargo customer base and we are looking forward to also promoting the upcoming network expansion which offers forwarders excellent and much-needed capacity to key destinations out of Incheon Airport."

Adrien Thominet, Executive Chairman of ECS Group, noted, "It is impressive to see how quickly Air Premia and Globe Air Cargo Korea are ramping up cargo operations since the first passenger-to-cargo charter flight in late December 2021. And this growth is proof that an ambitious, modern airline with an experienced cargo GSSA partner at its side, can carve a strong niche in a competitive market long served by established national carriers. ECS Group is proud to share in Air Premia's ongoing success."

Sean C. Kang, Executive Vice President of Air Premia, said "Air Premia has achieved remarkable results since it began operations in 2021. With 5 B787-9s, we are operating passenger flights to Los Angeles, New York, Frankfurt, Ho Chi Minh, Bangkok, and Narita. We expect to achieve revenue of \$300 million with \$23 million operation profit this year. Next year, we plan to aggressively expand our network to the Americas and Europe by introducing more than four additional B787-9s. We have overcome the difficult environment of the pandemic and achieved such success in a short period of time thanks to the dedicated and professional contribution of ECS, our global GSA. I believe Air Premia is now facing a great opportunity for expansion. We expect that ECS Group will make a significant contribution to the expansion of our business in the upcoming years."

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Steven Trowell is EirTrade Aviation's new Vice President-Technical

Dublin, Ireland: Global aviation asset management and trading company headquartered in Dublin, EirTrade Aviation, has appointed Steven Trowell to the position of Vice President-Technical.

Previously hangar manager and accountable manager with EirTrade Aviation Maintenance, Trowell was responsible for securing EASA Part 145 Line Maintenance approval for the Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 families of aircraft at the organization's facility in Ireland West Airport, Knock. He was also supervising manager for EirTrade's recent 'world's first' dismantling of two 787-800s in Prestwick.

An experienced, hands-on aircraft engineer, this new role will see Trowell spearhead new integrated

services for customers as EirTrade underpins its significant business increase at its AFRA-approved facilities in Ireland.

Ken Fitzgibbon, CEO of EirTrade Aviation, applauds his professional young team who will be at the forefront of taking the business forwards. "Steven joins our enthusiastic management line-up, and we welcome his technical expertise as we expand globally. Aircraft disassembly processes contribute to sustainable resource management by facilitating the recycling and reclamation of valuable materials from retired aircraft," he said.



Steven Trowell

Raft strengthens commercial leadership team to accelerate global expansion



Kurt Corman



Claudio Fiaoni

London, UK: Intelligent logistics platform Raft has appointed industry veteran Kurt Corman as

Regional Vice President of Sales, Americas, and Claudio Fiaoni as Regional Vice President

of Sales, EMEA, to support Raft's accelerating global growth.

"Raft is expanding rapidly, and the appointments of Kurt and Claudio ensure we have the best expertise at the helm of our sales team to support our growth objectives," said Mark Ketcham, Senior Vice President, Sales, Raft.

"They have a clear understanding of the industry and our users' pain points, enabling our team to deliver high-value outcomes for our clients."

Corman, an established business leader with over 25 years of experience in logistics and technology, was previously in sales and leadership roles with technology platforms and companies such as Fourkites, Chain.io, and BDP International.

Fiaoni started with Raft as Global Sales Director in 2022 and has over 25 years of software and commercial experience in senior roles across the logistics industry, at companies such as Oracle, 3Gtms, and E2open.

Raft currently has offices across the UK, Europe, India, and the US, and is in the process of expanding its presence in the Asia-Pacific region.



Katib Belkhodja

Katib Belkhodja takes over as Customer Centricity Director to bolster the customer-first strategies of Al-Futtaim Automotive

He will lead the implementation of effective marketing, PR communications, and digital transformation, further reinforcing Al-Futtaim Automotive's position as a market and mobility leader.

He is also mandated to drive in-depth development of brand content and storytelling, and data science, across the company's full portfolio of products and services.

A firm believer in harnessing the power of technology and innovation to improve customer experience, Katib will also ensure the implementation of the new digital framework that combines Data, MarCom, and CRM into one streamlined, intuitive platform called the 'Digital Customer Ecosystem.'

"In a world of constantly evolving customer behavior, alongside fast-scaling AI, mixed reality, and other technological tools, it had become evident that we need to reinvent the customer journey and experience. The newly-created Customer Centricity department is a major step forward in piloting this journey and driving more meaningful customer interactions across multiple channels," said Katib who has 15 years of extensive experience across diverse ecosystems within the automotive industry.

Dubai, UAE: In a bid to further intensify its focus on the customer-centric business approach, Al Futtaiim Automotive has appointed Katib Belkhodja as the company's Director of Customer Centricity, a newly-established function within its Centre of Excellence.

In his new role, Katib will report directly to the President of Al-Futtaim Automotive and will spearhead the development of the group's customer-focused business strategies, based on the three core pillars of Building Brand Power, Enhancing Customer Experience, and Boosting Digital Sales.



Upcoming Events



World Safety and Operations Conference (WSOC)

The IATA World Safety and Operations Conference (WSOC) brings under one roof the previous Cabin Ops Safety Conference (COSC), IATA Safety Conference and the Emergency Response Planning (ERP) Forum, and Aircraft Recovery Forum (ARF). This conference will tackle all issues related to safety, operations, and infrastructure.

19-21 September 2023, Hanoi, Vietnam

2023 FIATA World Congress

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

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

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

3-6 October 2023 | Brussels, Belgium

Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023

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

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

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

23-25 October 2023

W Marriott Absheron Hotel, Baku, Azerbaijan



Air Cargo Americas 2023

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

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

31 Oct – 2 Nov 2023

Miami Airport Convention Center | Miami, Florida, USA

Air Cargo/Transport Logistic Southeast Asia

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

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

1 - 3 November, 2023

Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, Singapore

Dubai Airshow 2023

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

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

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

13-17 November, 2023

Dubai World Central, Dubai Airshow Site

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