



Challenge Group

Navigating the volatile global business landscape with ease

Yossi Shoukroun
CEO, Challenge Group



08 | Global News

Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services adds Casablanca to its growing global network

Airlines



30 | Features

How digital distribution is transforming the air cargo booking landscape

Airports



34 | Trucking

Renault Trucks switching to renewable energy with 17 hectares of solar canopies

Logistics

The Lounge

Cristina Onate
Marketing & Product Development
VP at LATAM Airlines



Beyond Borders, Beyond Expectations: Unmatched Pharma Logistics

Embark on a journey of trust with Saudia Cargo. Our Pharma transit service is more than just delivery; it's a promise of reliability that spans continents. As the preferred choice for Pharma customers globally, we prioritize quality at every step. Our transit service ensures your pharmaceuticals never compromise on temperature control, with top-notch passive and active cooling solutions. When precision meets reliability, your cargo arrives not just on time but in impeccable condition.

Saudia Cargo: **Beyond Borders, Beyond Expectations**

Air Cargo Update is a platform to disseminate news and tackle issues in the global air freight industry with emphasis in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa.

• BAHRAIN • CYPRUS • IRAN • IRAQ • JORDAN • KUWAIT • LEBANON • OMAN • QATAR • SAUDI ARABIA • SYRIA • UNITED ARAB EMIRATES • YEMEN • ALGERIA • ANGOLA • BENIN • BOTSWANA • BURKINA FASO • BURUNDI • CAMEROON • CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC • CHAD • CONGO • COTE D'IVOIRE • DJIBOUTI • E. GUINEA • EGYPT • ERITREA • ETHIOPIA • GABON • GHANA • GUINEA • GUINEA • BISSAU • KENYA • LESOTHO • LIBERIA • LIBYA • MADAGASCAR • MALAWI • MALI • MAURITANIA • MAURITIUS • MOROCCO • MOZAMBIQUE • NAMIBIA • NIGER • NIGERIA • RWANDA • SAO TOME & PRINCIPE • SENEGAL • SEYCHELLES • SIERRA LEONE • SOMALIA • SOUTH AFRICA • SUDAN • SWAZILAND • TANZANIA • TOGO • TUNISIA • UGANDA • ZAIRE • ZAMBIA • ZIMBABWE • BANGLADESH • BHUTAN • INDIA • PAKISTAN • SRI LANKA • NEPAL



7dimensions
M E D I A F Z E

PO Box: 9604, SAIF Zone, Sharjah - UAE
Tel: +971 6 557 9579, Fax: +971 6 579569,
info@7dimensionsmedia.com
www.7dimensionsmedia.com

DIRECTOR & PUBLISHER

Israr Ahmad

israr@7dimensionsmedia.com

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Poonam Chawla

poonam@7dimensionsmedia.com

CHIEF EDITOR

Gemma Q. Casas

gemma@aircargoupdate.com

EDITOR

Mohammed Irshad

irshad@7dimensionsmedia.com

SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

Shiza Tariq Butt

shiza@7dimensionsmedia.com

STAFF REPORTER

R. Chandrakanth

chandrakant@aircargoupdate.com

Ayesha Rashed

ayesha@7dimensionsmedia.com

HEAD OPERATIONS

Mohammad Karimulla

karimulla@7dimensionsmedia.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Mohammed Imran

imran@7dimensionsmedia.com

PHOTO JOURNALIST

Deepu Raj

deepu@7dimensionsmedia.com

WORLDWIDE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

France, Belgium, Monaco, Spain:
Aidmedia, Gerard Lecoeur; Tel: +33 (0) 466 326 106; Fax: +33 (0) 466 327 073

India:
RMA media, Fareedoon Kuka;
Tel: +91 22 5570 3081; Fax: +91 22 5570 3082

Taiwan:
Advance Media Services Ltd, Keith Lee;
Tel: (886) 2 2523 8268; Fax: (886) 2 2521 4456

Thailand:
Trade and Logistics Siam Ltd, Dwight A Chiavetta;
Tel: +66 (0) 2650 8690; Fax: +66 (0) 2650 8696

UK, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland,
Austria: Horseshoe Media, Peter Patterson; Tel: +44 208 6874 160

Taking Flight Through Turbulent Times

From the shockwaves of the pandemic to today's varying geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainties, the air cargo industry continues to facilitate global trade for economies and industries.

Individuals and small and medium businesses engaged in the booming e-commerce trade also rely on its ability to deliver goods fast and safely.

When belly-hold capacity was wiped out with the global ban on travel imposed during the pandemic, the industry boldly converted passenger planes into freighters, known as "preighters", to utilize all available space in an aircraft.

Air cargo's swift action ensured essential medical supplies and other critical goods kept moving, demonstrating its vital role in the global efforts to fight and contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The industry quickly emerged as among the heroes of the pandemic.

However, new challenges emerged when Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Fuel prices soared, squeezing the industry's profit margins and shaking the global economy with unprecedented inflation. Supply chains were disrupted. Consumers struggled with never-before-seen higher food prices and cost of living, among many other troubles.

Yet, despite these difficulties, air cargo remains resilient and flexible. And technology is playing a crucial role in its ability to survive and thrive.

In this edition, we'll share with you the story of Challenge Group's triumphant success in navigating the world's volatile and turbulent times. How technology is helping major industry players change their business models for the better.

Looking ahead, the air cargo industry faces both headwinds and tailwinds. Navigating complexities and difficulties as they come is crucial to its survival. And so is its commitment to invest in infrastructure, technology, and talent development.

These and more are in this February edition of **Air Cargo Update**.

Gemma Q. Casas

Editor-in-Chief

All rights reserved. The opinions and views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publishers. Readers are requested to seek specialist advice before acting on information contained in this publication, which is provided for general use and may not be appropriate for the reader's particular circumstances. The publishers regret that they cannot accept liability for any error or omissions contained in this publication.



22 Cover Story | *Challenge Group: Navigating the volatile global business landscape with ease*



07 The Lounge
"Outside the boardroom, I find joy in family time, exploring new places, scuba diving, and devouring a good book."



26 Features
How digital distribution is transforming the air cargo booking landscape



30 Features
How digital distribution is transforming the air cargo booking landscape



34 Trucking
Renault Trucks switching to renewable energy with 17 hectares of solar canopies

- 08** Global News
- 26** Features
- 38** Airlines
- 45** Airports
- 48** Executive Moments
- 50** Events



Your Trusted Partner in Global Cargo



Air Freight



Air Cargo charter



Cargo consolidation



▪ Cargo acceptance, handling & warehousing

▪ Customs clearance

▪ Pickup & Delivery Options

▪ Online Booking

Prime Aviation excels in offering customized cargo solutions to a diverse clientele, including international freight forwarders, shippers, logistics providers, governments, and humanitarian relief organizations. With a global reach extending from Europe to China, CIS countries, India, and the USA, we have cultivated an extensive network of agents and established offices around the world.



ONE PLACE MORE SPACE

Proud providers of full charter air cargo capacity for freight forwarding, logistics and charter broker clients globally.

EXCLUSIVE GLOBAL SALES AGENTS FOR BOEING
747-400, 737NG, 757-200 & 737CL FREIGHTERS



+260M

KGS FLOWN
IN 12 MONTHS



+2,300

FULL CHARTERS
IN 12 MONTHS



+50

GLOBAL AIRPORTS
SERVED IN 12 MONTHS

Contact us at
cargo@aironeaviation.com
or **+44 (0) 203 176 1700**



The Lounge

"OUTSIDE THE BOARDROOM, I FIND JOY IN FAMILY TIME, EXPLORING NEW PLACES, SCUBA DIVING, AND DEVOURING A GOOD BOOK"



Cristina Onate
Marketing & Product
Development VP at LATAM Airlines



A decade ago, it was noticeable if there was more than one woman in a meeting. Today, it's improving, but there's still room for more female talent, especially in top executive positions."

Cristina Onate's journey from her early days in Madrid to her current role as the Marketing and Product Development VP at LATAM Airlines Group is nothing short of a global journey. "I'm Madrid born and bred," Cristina begins, sharing glimpses of her childhood, education, and family life. The eldest of four siblings, she developed a love for different cultures early on. "I was always on the move, studying abroad, learning languages. It was no surprise I ended up at IESE for my MBA; I always knew I wanted to live and work abroad."

"After five years in banking and real estate, I decided I needed a change. My MBA journey at IESE brought me to an open-ended opportunity at LAN Airlines, now LATAM Airlines Group." Cristina reflects on her journey in the cargo industry for almost 12 years, starting in Chile and then taking on roles in Miami. "I've seen the good and the bad, and I've loved every challenge that came my way."

"Throughout my time at LATAM Cargo, I've worn many hats – leading Global Accounts, Product Development, Customer Experience, Sustainability, and Brand Strategy. One highlight was the development of our new value proposition." She shares the complicated process of analyzing customer preferences, target positioning, and capabilities, resulting in a 50-point increase in NPS since the project's inception.

"In 2021, I took on the challenge of leading our sustainability strategy. We've not just met but exceeded our ambitious

targets through collaboration and teamwork."

"And then there was the monumental task of transporting COVID vaccines. We moved over 465 million vaccines with zero losses, a project with immense social impact."

Cristina reflects on the changing landscape for women in the industry. "A decade ago, it was noticeable if there was more than one woman in a meeting. Today, it's improving, but there's still room for more female talent, especially in top executive positions." She believes that adapting lessons from the pandemic's remote work experience can make it easier for women to join and advance in the industry.

"Outside the boardroom, I find joy in family time, exploring new places, scuba diving, and devouring a good book. I've been to over 30 countries, lived in four – my travels cover four continents. And of course, there's nothing like going back to Spain for our amazing food."

Cristina takes pride in ideas that stand the test of time. "Our value proposition has been a constant guide, allowing for a continuous improvement of our air cargo service." She emphasizes the introduction of time-definite products that have broadened options within South America, meeting client needs and adding capacity to high-demand routes.

"As I look back at the strategic projects we've conquered, it's clear that success came from diverse, multinational teams working toward a common goal. But our success is more than just business – air cargo brings immense value to society, enabling progress and development."

Cristina Onate's story is not just about her individual achievements but a celebration of the collective power of diverse perspectives in the cargo industry. "Diversity and inclusion aren't just buzzwords; they're essential for our industry's growth. Initiatives and organizations supporting women are crucial, ensuring that our skies remain diverse, dynamic, and full of opportunities."



Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services adds Casablanca to its growing global network

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Morocco's Casablanca has been added to Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services' growing global network and is the 35th destination the cargo carrier provides direct freighter service to in Africa.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew said the new route was launched on 09 January 2024. He described it as the company's "maiden venture into the Maghreb region as part of our global freighter network."

"As the largest cargo network operator in Africa and a key air cargo service provider globally, Ethiopian

Airlines will continue expanding their services around the world by opening new routes to facilitate

global trade and the flow of goods. Our freighter service to Casablanca is operated using the modern



Boeing 777-200F cargo aircraft with a payload capacity of more than 100 tons," said Tasew.

Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services is one of the major strategic business units within the Ethiopian Airlines Group. It currently covers more than 135 international destinations around the world with both belly-hold capacity and 68 dedicated freighter services, deploying more than 145 airplanes, including 17 dedicated freighter aircraft. Its operations connect five continents and highlight its role as a business and investment enabler.

It runs a modern warehouse facility that has 1.15 million tons of storage capacity and just completed the construction of an ultramodern e-commerce warehouse with a capacity of 150,000 tons, which is dedicated to mail, couriers, and e-commerce goods.

These fully automated state-of-the-art facilities are equipped with advanced transfer vehicles, sorting machines, and the latest technology system to provide a temperature-controlled environment for dry, perishable, and pharmaceutical shipments.

Air cargo demand surges 10.8% in December, closes 2023 near 2022 levels

Geneva, Switzerland: Global demand for air cargo surged by 10.8 percent in December, the strongest annual growth performance over the past two years, thus, pulling the industry's 2023 closure to near 2022 levels, the International Air Transport Association reported.

IATA also noted a particularly strong fourth-quarter performance for air cargo despite economic uncertainties. Full-year demand reached a level just slightly below 2022 and 2019.

Global full-year demand in 2023, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), was down 1.9% compared to 2022 (-2.2% for international operations). Compared to 2019, it was down 3.6% (-3.8 for international operations).

Capacity in 2023, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), was 11.3% above 2022 (+9.6% for international operations). Compared to 2019 (pre-COVID) levels, capacity was up 2.5% (0.0% for international operations).

December 2023 saw an exceptionally strong performance: global demand was 10.8% above 2022 levels (+11.5% for international operations). This was the strongest annual growth performance over the past two years. Global capacity was 13.6% above 2022 levels (+14.1% for international operations).

Some indicators to note include:

- Global cross-border trade recorded growth for the third consecutive month in October, reversing its previous downward trend.
- December inflation in both the United States and the EU as measured by the corresponding Consumer Price Indices (CPI) stayed below 3.5% year-on-year. China's CPI, however, indicated deflation for the third consecutive month, raising concerns of an economic slowdown.
- Both the manufacturing output and new export order Purchasing Managers Indexes (PMIs) – two leading indicators of global air cargo demand—continued to hover below the 50-mark in December, usual markers for contraction.



Willie Walsh

"Despite political and economic challenges, 2023 saw air cargo markets regain ground lost in 2022 after the extraordinary COVID peak in 2021. Although full year demand was shy of pre-COVID levels by 3.6%, the significant strengthening in the last quarter is a sign that markets are stabilizing towards more normal demand patterns. That puts the industry on very solid ground for success in 2024. But with continued, and in some cases intensifying, instability in geopolitics and economic forces, little should be taken for granted in the months ahead," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

Trilatec's squAIR-timber products help air cargo industry keep up with sustainability issues

Merzig, Saarland: DHL in Frankfurt and Paris, Kühne + Nagel as well as Lufthansa Cargo, Cargolux and Emirates SkyCargo are just some of the leading air freight players that trilatec supplies with its unique squAIR-timber products which are 100 percent recyclable.

Wooden beams, which are required for the assembly of air freight pallets, can be replaced by 80 percent lighter elements made of cardboard fiber composite material. And squAIR-timber is up for this challenge. This innovative lightweight construction elements from trilatec are made of 100 percent recyclable paper and cold-glued joints, manufactured according to the carbon principle.

Despite considerable weight savings, there is no need to compromise on load-bearing capacity. When loaded, one meter of the weatherproof material can carry up to 5 tons with a dead weight of just 1.2 kilograms per meter. When using wood, the dead weight is 3 to 4 kilograms per meter. Once the squAIR-timber has been used, it can be reused or returned to the recycling cycle. The cardboard fiber composite skids are certified for use in air freight and can be placed under all containers and pallets.

"We use the lightweight squAIR-timber elements as a substructure for all pharmaceutical shipments and they are fully integrated into the processes. They have no disadvantages compared to wood, but their significantly



lower weight brings many advantages and helps to save a considerable amount of CO₂," explains Johannes Bruijs, Sr. Vice-President Global Logistics at Cargolux.

The use of squAIR-timber also saves a lot of time during handling. Only one person and no forklift truck are required for assembling.

Andreas Langemann, Managing Director of trilatec GmbH, noted, "squAIR-timber offers added value to leading companies in the air cargo industry. Our product has proven to be a reliable alternative in their global networks. According to calculations, airlines such as Cargolux can save around 1,200 tons of fuel per year by using our solutions – the equivalent of three fully loaded jumbo jets."



Any Place. Any Time.

CUSTOM ULD SOLUTIONS™



To Get A Quote
Sales@ACLairshop.com
www.ACLairshop.com

Ask about our
Digital Suite!

**IATA
GROUND
HANDLING
CONFERENCE**

Reykjavík, Iceland
7-9 May 2024

Partnering
for a
better
Planet.

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND?

Unique business,
networking
and branding
opportunities.

Over 800
delegates including
key airline and GHSP
decision makers.

Exclusive access
to industry intelligence
and latest industry
developments.

JOIN US AT THIS YEAR'S
IATA GROUND HANDLING CONFERENCE

REGISTER NOW ON [IATA.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.iata.org/events)

For more details please contact: iataighc@gl-events.com

Host Airline

ICELANDAIR



HNA Cargo targets global digital sales with cargo.one partnership



Beijing/Berlin: HNA Cargo, one of China's largest air logistics groups and agent to the country's fourth largest airline, HNA Aviation Group, announced it will partner with the cargo.one digital booking platform.

Launching HNA Cargo's first global digital sales, cargo.one will soon bring freight forwarders in 107 markets, including routes into China and across the Asia Pacific.

The logistics group gains cargo.one's award winning digital booking experience, as well as its global scale and experience, having already digitalized sales for over 50 airline partners.

Qiushi Zheng, Vice President of HNA Cargo, comments, "With our network covering more than 300 cities and regions at home and abroad, HNA Cargo holds a strong resource advantage. This digital partnership helps ensure that we benefit fully from our transportation capacity and can achieve optimal distribution. As our first global digital sales channel, cargo.one adds value with its high-quality booking solutions and delivers us unique access to thousands of freight forwarders of all sizes through its impressive footprint."

HNA Cargo becomes the air logistics group partner that offers the largest number of portfolio airlines on cargo.one. As a powerhouse of Chinese air

freight, HNA Cargo manages air cargo subsidiaries with a combined fleet of 600 aircraft spanning 11 airlines including Hainan Airlines, Capital Airlines, Tianjin Airlines and Suparna Airlines.

HNA Cargo offers freight forwarders the significant global connectivity of 2000 international and domestic routes, including key trade lanes connecting China with USA, Europe, Australia, Middle East and extensively across Asia.

cargo.one brings HNA Cargo directly into the branches of forwarding companies in all corners of the world. Agents, including Top 10 global forwarders, use cargo.one to quote and book airline and agent rates quickly and efficiently 24/7 via both interfaces and APIs. HNA Cargo benefits from cargo.one's customer-centric and seamless booking experience, guaranteed to every freight forwarder.

"We are delighted that HNA Group is choosing us to help deliver their digital ambitions. With currently more than 50 digitally connected airlines, no other platform can deliver forwarders access to such superior differentiated supply, whether through our web-based application or API suite. As the go-to partner for digital distribution, cargo.one will ensure that HNA Cargo offers are always front of mind in every relevant market," said Moritz Claussen, Founder & Co-CEO of cargo.one.

The deal comes at a time when cargo.one's airline partners are pushing hard to bring as much capacity as possible into the digital arena. For example, in the past 18 months, cargo.one has seen 400% growth in new airline and route combinations going live for digital booking.

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo partners with SkyCell to provide ULD tracking and visibility

Amstelveen, The Netherlands: Air France KLM Martinair Cargo has selected SkyCell, a purpose-led technology company engaged in transforming the pharmaceutical supply chain, as its preferred unit load device (ULD) tracking partner.

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo said this latest partnership will see SkyCell deploy its state-of-the-art, built for purpose IoTs across this group of airlines' entire ULD fleet, providing them with real-time visibility into its ULD operations on the SkyMind platform and driving significant operational and cost efficiencies.

With SkyMind, Air France KLM Martinair Cargo will gain complete control over ULD operations — mitigating the extensive manual efforts historically associated with tracing and tracking, leading to substantial time and cost savings, as well as boosting operational efficiency.

SkyMind utilizes state-of-the-art technology, including advanced readers and tags, to provide airlines with real-time visibility into their entire ULD fleet. This visibility enables airlines to make informed decisions and operate proactively rather than reactively, resulting in improved operational efficiency.

"We've decided to invest in the latest asset tracking technology with SkyCell. A new technology solution called SkyMind has been developed. Implementing state-of-the-art tracking devices to locate our ULDs will not only enable us to track our assets but will also significantly enhance our operational quality. Real-time ULD tracking will enable us to address the issue of ULD losses, whether by ground handling partners or our valued



Adriaan den Heijer

customers and will ensure seamless movement of cargo. With improved ULD management, we can optimize our operations and deliver exceptional service to our air cargo industry Partners," said Adriaan den Heijer, EVP Air France-KLM Cargo and Managing Director Martinair.



BALI INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW 2024

**WHERE AEROSPACE
EXCELLENCE MEETS
DEFENSE INNOVATION**

September | 20
18-21 | 24

**Ngurah Rai
International Airport**
Bali, Indonesia



baliirshow.com

**UNLOCK INDONESIA'S AEROSPACE
AND DEFENSE POTENTIAL!**

Don't miss the chance to capitalise on the boundless growth in aviation and the MRO sector, witness the expansion of 50 new gateways in airport development, and embrace defense innovation fuelled by a staggering US\$27.6 billion military expenditure until 2030.

**SECURE YOUR
SPACE NOW !**

Ms Vivian Khoo (International)
+65 9692 4289
vivian@inaro17.com

Ms Lulu Fazriah (Indonesia)
+62 813 1047 0275
lulu@inaro17.com

HOSTED BY:



COORDINATING MINISTRY OF
MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INVESTMENT
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

SUPPORTED BY:



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



MINISTRY OF TOURISM



INDONESIAN AIR FORCE



AIRNAV INDONESIA



Xeneta: Air cargo enters 2024 with cautious optimism after December demand and rates boost, as the year of uncertainties and opportunities lies ahead

Oslo, Norway: 2024 may herald the start of a new economic growth cycle for the global air cargo industry after last year ended with a +9% year-on-year rise in demand and the general air cargo spot rate reached its highest level in nine months, suggests the latest weekly market data analysis by Xeneta.

While the geopolitical environment and cost of living pressures continue to present significant hurdles to global trade, the predictability of air cargo means the industry stands to benefit from escalating international disruption, albeit producing only modest gains in volumes, says Niall van de Wouw, Xeneta's Chief Airfreight Officer.

"To say 2024 is a 'new dawn' is perhaps a little too optimistic, but I certainly think it's the start of a new cycle for airlines and forwarders – and shippers are likely to also appreciate the stability returning to the market so they can more accurately predict the transportation costs for the products they are selling," said Van de Wouw.

Weekly market data for December shows the global average air cargo spot rate peaking at USD 2.60 per kg, up +6% on its November level, boosted by a +9% annual growth in demand. The general air cargo spot rate, however, continued to record a double-digit year-on-year fall of -18%. This compares to a growth ratio of -25% in November compared to the previous year.

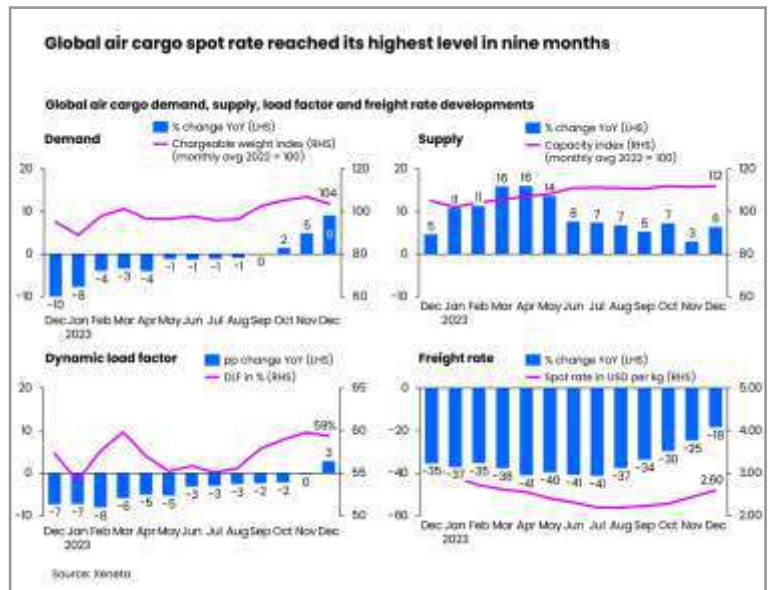
As the heightened cost of living permeates advanced economies, consumers opted for more discounted e-commerce shopping to fulfill their Christmas shopping lists, adding to export volumes, especially from Asia. However, it is worth noting that general retail sales outside of e-commerce remained subdued, especially when adjusted for inflation.

Looking at market supply, December's global air cargo capacity stayed at a similar level to previous months, climbing +6% year-over-year versus the global supply still under recovery in 2022.

The global dynamic load factor, Xeneta's market performance indicator which measures air cargo capacity utilization by considering both cargo volume and weight perspectives of cargo flown and capacity available, dropped to 59% in December. This was 1 percentage point down from its November level, but 3 percentage points higher than in December 2022 as year-on-year demand growth outperformed the increase in cargo capacity.

Prime regional lanes performed strongly in the final month of 2023

The general air cargo spot rate from Europe to the US stood at USD 2.42 per kg in December, up +21% month-over-month. The reduction in capacity helped to push up rates on this lane. Similarly, corresponding spot rates from China and Southeast Asia to Europe both rose +9%



to USD 4.49 per kg and USD 2.91 per kg respectively.

The crisis impacting ocean container shipping in the Red Sea and disruption through the Suez Canal has yet to influence air cargo rates as the surge of air cargo demand for the holiday season was close to its end by the start of these events.

Triggered by strong e-commerce demand, the China to the US air spot rate rose another +6% in December to USD 5.12 per kg. In line with this, the airfreight spot rate ex Southeast Asia to the US climbed +14% to USD 4.50 per kg as outbound Southeast Asia shipments tend to transit via other Asian countries before heading into the US.

The China to the US corridor was the only lane among those referenced to see its December air cargo spot rate climb above its December 2022 level, up +13%. But similar to these other corridors, the air cargo spot rate on this corridor mostly peaked in early December. By the week ending 31 December, the China to US spot rate fell by a considerable 20% to USD 4.54 per kg from its peak three weeks earlier.

With rising expectations of market normalization, more shippers preferred to commit to longer-term, fixed-rate contracts in the last quarter of 2023. Over-six-month contracts accounted for 45% of the total contracts signed, up 5 percentage points from the previous quarter. Six-month contracts amounted to another 28% of the total market. This was in stark contrast to the pandemic era when most shippers had to manage rates valid for up-to-one-month only. By the fourth quarter, the share of up-to-one-month rates was only 14%.

"There's still a lot of friction in the global supply chain market and that means there will be opportunities for some sectors. If big ocean carriers are not going through the Red Sea, it might delay a million or more containers, with all the knock-on effects. And the fact that you don't know how long this situation will continue means some shippers will pay for the predictability of air cargo to lessen the impact of the current ocean freight disruption," said Van de Wouw.

"In contrast, air cargo seems to be in a more 'steady state'. It is important for airlines and forwarders to focus on the elements they can control, such as cost and reliability, and to be ready for when the opportunities arrive."

Van de Wouw also questioned whether ocean carriers will continue to invest their profits from the pandemic to get a stronger foothold in the air freight market?

"The overall outlook for supply chains in 2024 remains very difficult to forecast amidst all this market uncertainty. This is generally not good for investments and shippers/consumers alike, but it might be good for airfreight's share of global trade," he continued.



Silk Way West Airlines expands ULD agreement with ACL Airshop

Baku, Azerbaijan: Silk Way West Airlines, the leading cargo airline in the Caspian and Central Asian region, has extended its longstanding strategic collaboration with ACL Airshop, the global Unit Load Device (ULD) provider.

A focal point of this strategic partnership is the introduction of Bluetooth innovation for real-time ULD tracking, a revolutionary step towards optimizing cargo transportation.

This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone for Silk Way West Airlines and ACL Airshop, bringing together the strengths and expertise of both companies.

By extending their collaboration, Silk Way West Airlines will continue to streamline its cargo-handling processes, ensuring quicker turnaround and transit times for shipments, while ACL Airshop will provide cutting-edge ULD solutions, leveraging technology to enhance cargo protection, tracking, and overall supply chain visibility.

The partnership emphasizes an ongoing commitment to environmentally sustainable practices and will feature joint initiatives to reduce carbon footprint and promote eco-friendly solutions within the air cargo industry.

In addition to ULDs, the partnership extends to the provision of innovative logistical management and state-of-the-art technologies, promising accelerated services,



ACL Airshop President & CEO Steve Townes, left, with Vugar Mammadov, Vice-President CIS and Central Asia of Silk Way West Airlines.

streamlined logistics, and substantial cost savings.

Vugar Mammadov, Vice-President CIS and Central Asia of Silk Way West Airlines, expressed his enthusiasm about the partnership stating: "This strategic collaboration with ACL Airshop is a testament to our commitment to delivering exceptional service and value to our customers. By combining our strengths, we aim to set a new benchmark in air freight logistics and contribute to the growth of the global cargo industry." Steve Townes, President and CEO of ACL Airshop, commented: "Together with Silk Way West Airlines, we will drive innovation, enhance operational efficiency, and create a more sustainable and resilient air cargo ecosystem."

Maurice van Terheijden, Managing Director EMEA for ACL Airshop added, "Both companies Silk Way West Airlines and ACL Airshop boast cultures of exceptional performance, making it an honor for us to evolve in tandem with our partner."

ECS Group acquires Americas GSA, paving the way for its further growth in the Americas

Paris: ECS Group has taken a significant step towards its strategic goal of achieving full coverage across the Americas with the acquisition of Americas GSA which has a strong Latin American presence, particularly in Central America, increasing its overall presence to 16 countries on the continent.

The acquisition agreement was signed on 29 October 2023. 42 staff across 13 Americas GSA offices join ECS Group's existing workforce of more than 80 local heroes in Latin America. They bring in an established, close network of freight forwarders and strategic exporters, and long-standing contracts with renowned airlines such as LATAM Airlines, MAS, Turkish Airlines, Lufthansa, Swiss, Korean Air, and Ethiopian Airlines, pushing the group's airline portfolio up to more than 40 airlines.

Even more significantly, through Americas GSA, ECS Group gains a first-time presence in Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panamá, alongside its previous network of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and the USA.

"Our vision is to become one of the largest air cargo GSAs in Latin America, not just in terms of network, but specifically as the GSA of choice for comprehensive international solutions delivered with local finesse. This partnership with ECS Group brings together a highly professional air cargo organization with a strong global vision and an established team with in-depth knowledge of the Latin American market and close relationships with the largest customers in the region. Within this new alliance, Americas GSA will be able to offer even higher quality service, more opportunities tailored to the specific needs of our partners, airlines, and customers, and enjoy a firm technological and financial foundation on which to continue growing," said Pablo Canales, Managing Partner – CEO of Americas GSA.

Adrien Thominet, Executive Chairman of ECS Group, explains, "Americas GSA not only greatly augments our coverage in Central America, significantly



**Adrien Thominet
ECS Group CEO**

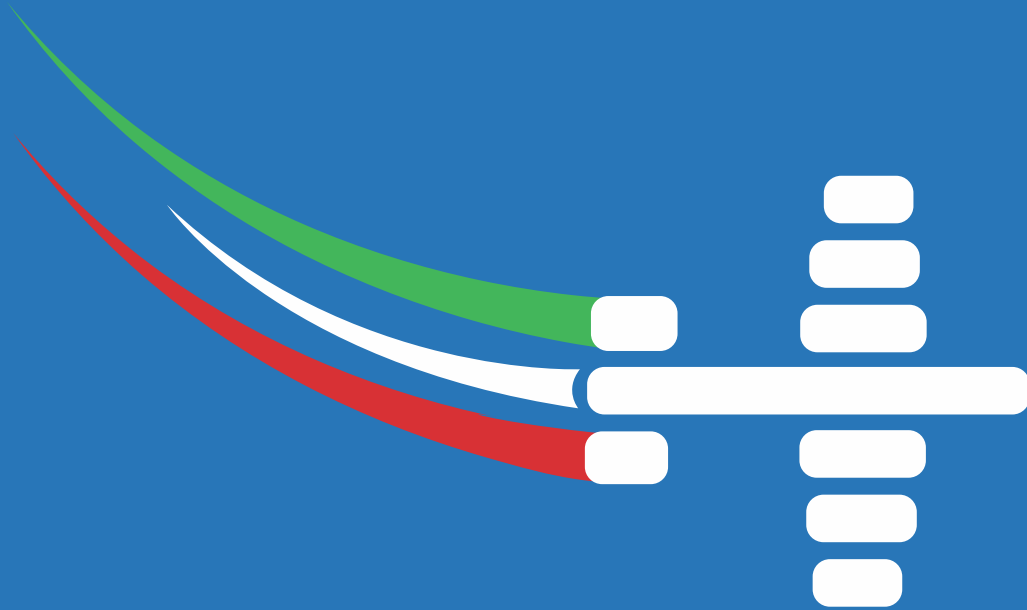
adding to our strong network of committed, local air cargo experts operating across the continent, but since it shares a very similar corporate culture and likewise places great value on professional expertise, it offers a highly promising basis for solid organic growth. Together, we are well poised to shape the future of air cargo in Latin America and have a considerable and positive impact on the success of our customers."

Thominet says ECS Group aims to offer GSSA services across every country in the Americas, explaining, "By that, I mean expertly balancing out existing and potential customer relationships built on trust, expertise, and experience, with the advanced business insights and process support that the latest in digital air cargo solutions developed by our in-house Cargo Digital Factory bring. Thanks to its established and loyal team of managers, well known for their commitment to performance and quality service on a personal level, Americas GSA is already very strong on customer proximity and interaction."

"We see significant synergies in terms of business, digital initiatives, and service offerings, and look forward to positive developments in our newest region, as we head into the new year. ECS Group warmly welcomes Americas GSA," he added.

VOLARE AIRSHOW

MEET THE AVIATION AND AEROSPACE INDUSTRY LEADERS
AND DISCOVER THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND INNOVATIONS



Aviation - Aerospace Convention & Exhibition

October 3, 4, 5 - 2024

Reggio Emilia Airport-LIDE, Italy

www.volareairshow.com

For more information :
info@airexpo.aero





American Airlines Cargo reduced long-term plastic waste in 2023 by as much as the equivalent of 8.6 million water bottles

that allows anaerobic bacteria to digest the plastic in a landfill. Outside of a landfill, the plastic has an indefinite shelf life and performs exactly like traditional plastic products.

"Sustainability is of paramount importance for us at American, and we are so pleased that our transition to BioNatur Plastics is one way we can implement real change in our cargo operations," said Greg Schwendinger, President of American Airlines Cargo. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with BioNatur Plastics as we unite in working toward a greener future."

Charles Rick, President of BioNatur Plastics adds, "American is a leader in sustainability and we are proud to work with the cargo team to make the switch to our biodegradable and recyclable plastics. We look forward to even greater impact together in 2024."

Regular plastic can take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade in a landfill. BioNatur biodegradable plastics will biodegrade under landfill conditions in only 8 to 12 years. The end products are fully recyclable in normal waste collection streams, and with added strength, the plastics can be used in thinner amounts – thus minimizing the quantity of plastic use overall.

FORT WORTH, Texas: American Airlines Cargo says it reduced its long-term plastic waste in 2023 by more than 150,000 lbs, the equivalent of 8.6 million water bottles.

The airline said this is a result of a continued relationship with BioNatur Plastics™, launched by M&G Packaging, which manufactures a growing line of biodegradable plastic products for use in air cargo operations.

The carrier began transitioning to BioNatur Plastics products at major US hubs in early 2022, reducing long-term plastic waste by the equivalent of 6.4 million water bottles in the first year. In 2023, American expanded its use of biodegradable products beyond US hubs to include regional domestic stations, such as Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), Honolulu International Airport (HNL) and Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport (MSP), as well as internationally to Carrasco International Airport (MVD) and Santiago International Airport (SCL) in Latin America.

American says it plans to continue replacing traditional plastic used for stretch wrap and pallet covers with the BioNatur Plastics line, which is manufactured with a 1% load of an organic, food-safe proprietary additive

Menzies Aviation and SGA Angola agree on a joint venture creating 'Menzies Angola'

London: Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, has announced a new joint venture (JV) with Sociedade Gestora de Aeroportos (SGA-SA) to deliver cargo and lounge services at Luanda International Airport (LAD).

As part of the new partnership, the newly formed Menzies Angola will handle more than 30,000 tonnes of cargo each year, serving a broad range of customers including Taag-Angola Airlines, Air France, TAP Air Portugal, and Ethiopian Airlines. It will also manage the VIP lounge at LAD, which serves more than 45,000 passengers each year.

Reporting to the Angolan Ministry of Transport, SGA Angola manages 18 airports including LAD, the main international airport of Angola. Its main mission is to provide high-quality and safe services, with a focus



on operational efficiency and sustainability.

"We are thrilled to announce our joint venture with SGA, and look forward to providing safe, secure, and reliable services to our airline customers in the region. Angola's aviation industry is growing with a bright future ahead, which is why now is the opportune time to forge a strategic partnership with SGA. We look forward to working with SGA to provide services at Luanda International Airport, and support its transition to the new, under construction, Angola International Airport," said Charles Wyley, EVP Middle East, Africa and Asia.



AIR EXPO ABU DHABI

AVIATION - AEROSPACE EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE

29-30-31 OCTOBER 2024

ABU DHABI, THE CAPITAL - UAE





Luxcargo Handling S.A. to take over Luxair's Ramp and Cargo Handling activities



LUXEMBOURG: Cargolux's wholly owned subsidiary, Luxcargo Handling S.A., LCH, has been awarded a license for ramp handling at Luxembourg airport.

The decision was announced in December following a tender process for two ground-handling licenses. This license also permits LCH, to handle third-party airlines. It will take over Luxair's ramp and

warehouse handling operations at Luxembourg's Findel airport.

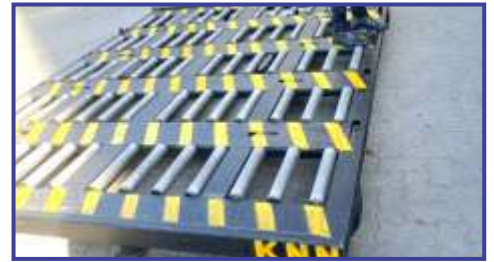
"The takeover of Luxair's ramp and warehouse handling services by LCH, is a great opportunity for Cargolux to strengthen its position in the air cargo industry and to further enhance its service offering to its customers. LCH also looks forward to continuing the relationship Luxair had with other airlines besides Cargolux. We look forward to commencing operations in 2024. Cargolux' and Luxair's cargo ramp and warehouse handling teams have been working hand in hand for decades and I am confident that the transition will proceed smoothly," said Richard Forson, Cargolux President & CEO.

As an all-cargo carrier with over 50 years of experience in the industry, Cargolux is aware of the challenges and requirements for seamless cargo handling. Based in Luxembourg, Cargolux is Europe's leading all-cargo airline operating a fleet of 30 Boeing 747-8 freighters and Boeing 747-400 freighters. Its

network covers over 75 destinations on scheduled all-cargo flights and offers full and part-charter services. The company has more than 85 offices in over 50 countries and operates an extensive global trucking network to more than 250 destinations.

Manufacturer of Ground Support Equipment in the UAE

Specialized in MS; Aluminum & SS Works. Hangar Equipment. Repair and refurbishment of used Equipment.



KNN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES FZC

Q1-08/08-A, SAIF Zone, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Tel: +971 6 59 52403

Mobile: +971 50 364 8360. E-mail: kshaikh@knn-gse.ae, Web: www.knn-ges.ae

dteq continues its global growth course with new hires amid increase in projects



Hagen Hennig



Boris Dykiert

Frankfurt, Germany: With new hires in Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the USA, dteq Transport Engineering Solutions is deepening its international footprint, doubling its worldwide workforce in just seven years—2016 through 2023.

The company hired new engineers in 2023 as part of its growth strategy and to further improve its client proximity in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and North America. This year, its growth course will continue with new hires in engineering, business development, and administration as well as with new office openings in the Asia Pacific region.

“The goal of our continuous growth strategy is to serve our clients across various

industries in all

transport engineering challenges, even better in real-time and locally—from the early stages until the close-out of a project—and to develop new emerging markets, business potential and client segments. Starting in 2016 with 18 engineering and project experts, we are proud to have more than doubled to over 40 employees in Germany, the USA, the Philippines, Taiwan, Brazil, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia today—within just seven years,” said Boris Dykiert, Commercial Director at dteq, Germany.

Hagen Hennig, Technical Director at dteq, Germany, explains, “Projects and their technical requirements, as well as clients’ requirements, are becoming increasingly complex all over the world. To meet these, dteq continuously invests in skill sets like naval architecture and mechanical engineering, hiring experts within the individual disciplines of engineering but also investing in software and trainings. This wide array of skill sets and the multidisciplinary teams enable dteq to provide a unique combination in the project transport engineering field—from tailor-made transport and marine engineering solutions, surveying and supervision services, to project consulting and execution.”

New safety and security rules in transporting goods by sea, road and rail this year within the EU

Brussels, Belgium: The European Union’s new customs pre-arrival safety and security system – Import Control System 2 (ICS2) – will introduce a new process for the entry of goods by maritime and inland waterways, road, and rail in the EU by 3 June 2024.

This is the third phase or release of the implementation of the new system that will extend safety and security data reporting requirements to all modes of transport. Similar requirements for air transportation of goods were enacted earlier this year.

With this third release, maritime and inland waterways, road and rail carriers will also need to provide data on goods sent to or through the EU before their arrival, through a complete Entry Summary Declaration (ENS). This obligation also concerns postal and express carriers who transport goods using these modes of transport as well as other parties, such as logistics providers. In certain circumstances, final consignees established in the EU will also have to submit ENS data to ICS2.

Traders are strongly advised to prepare in advance for Release 3 to avoid the risk of delays and non-compliance. Affected businesses will be required to ensure they collect accurate and complete data from their clients, update their IT systems and operational processes and provide adequate training to their staff.

Since 11 December 2023, traders must also complete a self-conformance test before connecting to ICS2, to verify their ability to access and exchange messages with customs authorities.

EU Member States will grant authorization, upon request, to the affected traders to gradually connect to ICS2 within a time-limited deployment window. Member States can grant the deployment window anytime within the following timeframes: from 3 June 2024 to 4 December 2024 (maritime and inland waterway carriers); from 4 December 2024 to 1 April 2025 (maritime and inland waterway house level filers); and from 1 April 2025 to 1 September 2025 (road and rail carriers). If traders are not ready on time, and do not provide the data required under ICS2, goods will be stopped at the EU borders and will not be cleared by the customs authorities.

The EU is a major player in international trade – it accounts for around 14 % of the world’s trade in goods. By collecting safety and security data, EU customs authorities will be able to detect risks earlier and intervene at the most appropriate point in the supply chain to keep trade safe for the EU and its citizens.



Etihad Cargo, Abu Dhabi Airports and Abu Dhabi Food Hub sign MoU to develop new food corridors and diversify food trade with the UAE at the helm

Abu Dhabi, UAE: Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, Abu Dhabi Airports, a key enabler of the emirate's aviation sector, and Abu Dhabi Food Hub – KEZAD, the region's largest and first dedicated food wholesale market and logistic hub, have signed a tri-party memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly establish a fully compliant and transparent origin-to-destination perishable air corridor known as the 'Fresh Corridor 2.0'.

The initiative will support the diversification of food sources, developing new trade corridors and enhancing the choice and variety of products available for regional consumers.

This MoU sets a framework for Abu Dhabi's food trade enablers to position the UAE as a key node in global food supply chains. The partners, together, aim to establish a strong ecosystem for food trading and investment, which includes advanced infrastructure, access to regional consumer markets, and reliable logistics and connectivity worldwide.

Further, the agreement strengthens the integrated offering of Abu Dhabi through collaborative efforts by the three parties that involve an exchange of knowledge and expertise in handling, storage and logistics, food safety, and hygiene as part of the trading process.

Agility and EFE team up to deliver AI training to refugees and other young jobseekers in Egypt

Cairo, Egypt: Agility, a global leader in supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation has teamed up with the leading nonprofit job placement network in the Middle East and North Africa, the Education for Employment (EFE), to train as many as 3,500 young jobseekers in Egypt, including refugees, in the use of artificial intelligence.

The training is intended to familiarize young men and women from underserved



Officials of Etihad Cargo, Abu Dhabi Airports and Abu Dhabi Food Hub – KEZAD signing their tri-party agreement to jointly establish a fully compliant and transparent origin-to-destination perishable air corridor known as the "Fresh Corridor 2.0."

Antonoaldo Neves, Chief Executive Officer, Etihad Airways, said: "Etihad Cargo is committed to the UAE's National Food Security Strategy 2051 and is proud to be an active partner in the launch of the region's largest food wholesale market – Abu Dhabi Food Hub at KEZAD. Etihad Cargo customers will benefit from the expanded infrastructure as a strategic hub in the Middle East to the rest of the world."

Elena Sorlini, Managing Director and Interim CEO, Abu Dhabi Airports, said: "Our collective proposition to facilitate trade in and out of the UAE will further support the commercial development of the emirate as a global food center. We are delighted to be a part of this MoU along with Etihad Cargo and Abu Dhabi Food Hub. The launch of the Fresh Corridor 2.0 will encourage 2-way food trade between the UAE and the rest of the world bringing food products into the UAE but also taking our "Made in the UAE" products to the world in a bold step towards diversification and growth of imports and exports."

Suresh Vaidhyanathan, Chief Executive Officer, Abu Dhabi Food Hub, meanwhile, described the agreement as a testament to their commitment to develop and operate the food hub as one of the finest food wholesale markets globally.

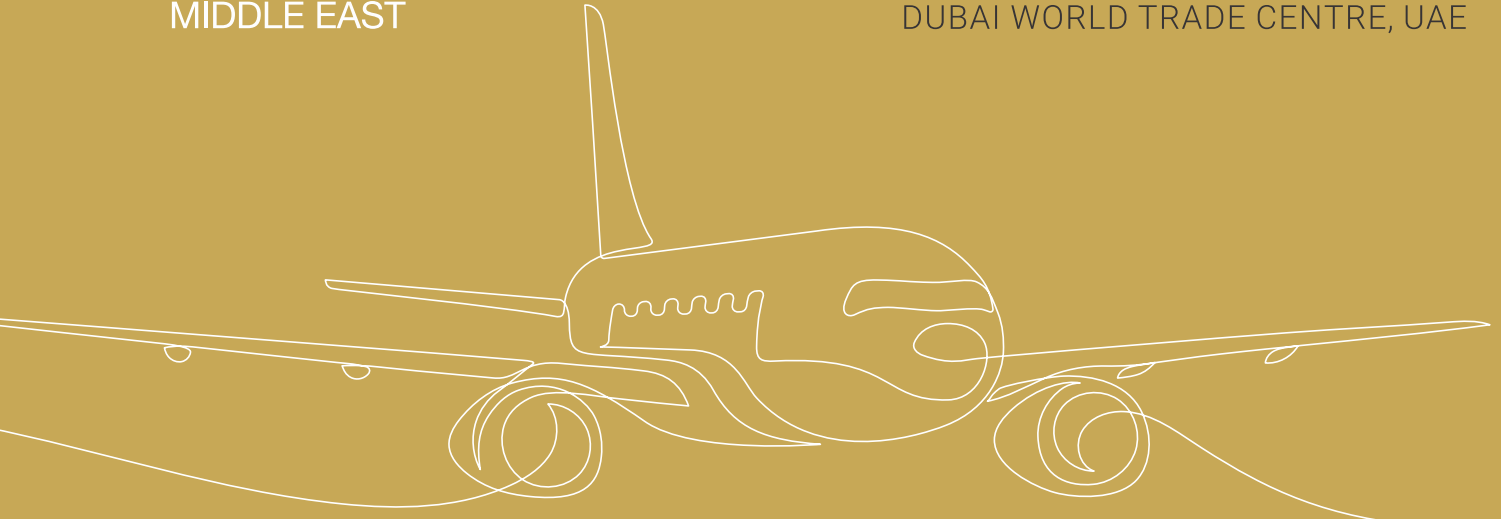
"This collaboration will indeed enhance our multimodal capabilities as we seek to position the UAE as a leader in the regional food value chain. We are excited to support the global food players in accessing the regional consumer markets with integrated supply chain solutions and incorporating the most recent technologies and further be a key enabler in food trade diversification and UAE's Food Security Agenda. Our vision is to create an unparalleled ecosystem of sellers and buyers from around the world," he said.

populations in Egypt with artificial intelligence concepts, tools and ethical considerations. It is designed to give them a competitive edge in the job market by teaching them to harness the power of transformative AI technology.

Underemployment or lack of entrepreneurial opportunities inhibit economic and social development. EFE's skills development programs provide young people with opportunities to gain employment or start their own businesses. These lead to greater prosperity, stability and social and economic development.

Frank Clary, Agility VP of Sustainability, said the company is supporting EFE's free employment and job skills training so that attendees can better understand how to use AI for job searches and tasks they may need to perform in the course and scope of employment or business management.

"AI literacy is quickly becoming a priority area for recruiters. EFE and Agility are committed to making training available to young people who would otherwise not have access to it. Our shared goal is to create a future-ready workforce for Egypt and the broader Middle East because employment and entrepreneurial skills enable development, prosperity and stability," Clary said.



ORGANISED BY



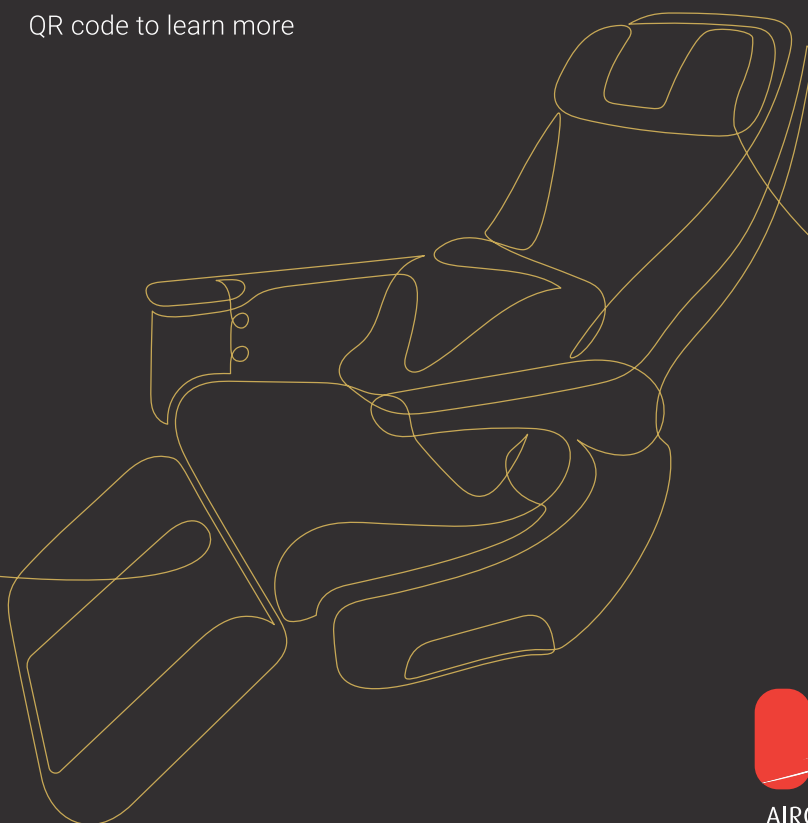
#MROME

#AIME

Connecting the airline supply chain



We pre-arrange meetings for exhibitors with key airline buyers at the show. Scan the QR code to learn more



AIRCRAFT INTERIORS MIDDLE EAST



“

Challenge Group will continue to navigate external industry challenges amid global geopolitical uncertainty and economic volatility. Internally, Challenge Group is proactively addressing these challenges through a strategic fleet expansion, paving the way for the incorporation of new markets and destinations custom-tailored to meet customer requirements. Additionally, we have plans in place for a new digital sales channel and sustainability initiatives, both designed to bolster and elevate the overall customer experience.”

Yossi Shoukroun

CEO, Challenge Group

Challenge Group:

Navigating the volatile global business landscape with ease

By Mohammed Irshad



The Group extends its influence beyond the runway, guaranteeing efficient door-to-door delivery solutions. Working together with more than 40 reliable trucking partners, it offers tailored road feeder solutions to more than 100 destinations across Europe which can be reached within 12 hours.

The air cargo industry isn't just about navigating turbulence: It's about taking flight, reaching new heights, and delivering value at every step. In this high-stakes game, where agility and resilience are crucial, Challenge Group emerges as a steadfast player, expertly navigating the choppy waters.

From its humble inception in 1976, Challenge Group has metamorphosed into an influential entity, comprising eight cohesive divisions that breathe life into their guiding principle: "Let your logistics project be our challenge!"

But what distinguishes Challenge Group as a true game-changer in the air cargo arena? The answer lies in their holistic approach. Unlike standalone service providers, Challenge Group operates as a seamlessly integrated network, presenting an unparalleled spectrum of services under one roof. This encompasses:

Dedicated Airlines: Three strategically positioned airlines—Challenge Airlines IL, BE, and MT—enable global reach and flexible scheduling, ensuring swift and

secure delivery to your cargo's destination.

Extensive Road Network: With robust European and US trucking networks, Challenge Group extends its influence beyond the runway, guaranteeing efficient door-to-door delivery solutions. Working together with over 40 reliable trucking partners, Challenge Logistics offers tailored road feeder solutions to more than 100 destinations across Europe. It currently averages more than 1,250 legs per month. Most of the major European capitals can be reached within 12 hours. 65% of Challenge Group's business is non-standard cargo, hence door-to-door solutions for complex cargo are its specialty.

Expert Challenge Handling: Their established handling company ensures meticulous cargo care, minimizing risks and optimizing efficiency throughout the ground handling process. Located in Liège, Belgium, at the heart of the Golden Triangle (Frankfurt-Paris-Amsterdam), Challenge Handling is considered one of the largest and most sophisticated handling facilities in Europe.

Some 40,000 m² of online warehouse, 10,000 m² of offline warehouse, and 400 m² of temperature-controlled storage, as well as 5000 m² of office space, make up the facility which caters specifically to special cargo needs. Alongside automated roller-bed systems for ULD (SACO & ETV systems) to ensure quick and efficient cargo handling, Challenge Handling has a high-security clearance and has Europe's largest capacity high loader (52 tons).

Leasing Powerhouse: Challenge Aviation,



catering to both airlines and operators, provides access to wide-body aircraft and engines through its leasing arm.

Tailored Maintenance: Whether routine checks or intricate repairs, their line maintenance provider ensures your aircraft remains airworthy and prepared for the next challenge.

Commercial Expertise: Through Challenge Air Cargo, the group's commercial entity, clients gain access to dedicated teams adept at crafting unique solutions for time-sensitive and complex shipments.

This integrated approach empowers Challenge Group to overcome any logistical hurdle, no matter how complex or demanding. They don't merely transport cargo; they conduct a symphony of seamless transportation, consistently surpassing expectations.

Air Cargo Update had the privilege to sit down with Yossi Shoukroun, the CEO of Challenge Group, gaining further insights into the company's accomplishments and plans. Let's discover more from his own words in this Q&A.

Can you elaborate on the specific records and areas of growth that Challenge Group achieved in 2023?

In 2023, Challenge Group achieved remarkable milestones and experienced substantial growth in the face of challenging market conditions. Despite these obstacles, the company celebrated a successful year highlighted by notable accomplishments.

The introduction and deployment of our B767 fleet were pivotal in this success, allowing us to uplift a record-breaking tonnage. Additionally, our end-to-end and charter activities reached new heights, culminating in the completion of 1000 charter flights throughout the year.

Both Challenge Handling and Challenge Technic made significant strides by attracting new clients such as MSC, SF, and Smartwings. This not only expanded our customer base but also enabled us to diversify and enhance our range of logistics services, showcasing our commitment to providing comprehensive and tailored solutions to meet the evolving needs of our clients.

What key strategies or innovations contributed to Challenge Group's success in 2023?

Our core identity and value proposition are deeply rooted in an end-to-end solution approach tailored to meet diverse supply chain requirements. Over time, we've emerged as the partner of choice for handling complex verticals such as heavy and oversized, dangerous goods, aircraft engines, cars, horses, and pharmaceuticals and addressing specific or unique logistics needs.

Looking ahead to 2024, our strategic emphasis is centered on reinforcing internal collaboration within the group and refining the distinct service that distinguishes us within the air cargo industry. Those ancillary services are none other than providing end-to-end logistics solutions from a singular source, ensuring stability and reliability throughout the entire supply chain.

In terms of operational efficiency, can you share any specific initiatives that played a significant role in the company's achievements?

Challenge Group has implemented several key initiatives that have played a significant role in our achievements. One noteworthy initiative is the establishment of fast lanes within our infrastructures in Liege, streamlining the movement of goods and reducing processing times.

In addition to that, the implementation of a second-line warehouse optimizes the sorting and distribution process and offers our customers an additional storage area dedicated to specific operations such as the staging equipment build-up process. Furthermore, special equipment tailored to our unique requirements has enhanced our overall efficiency in handling various types of complex heavy and oversized shipments.

In the realm of digital tools, we have successfully integrated cutting-edge software solutions. This includes the incorporation of 3D software for special loading requirements ensuring meticulous handling of unique shipments and enabling us to give a quick response to customers' queries, and specialized software to calculate the most efficient routes, not only minimizing transit times but also contributing to fuel efficiency.

With 2023 being a year of growth, how did Challenge Group expand its market share, and in which regions or sectors was this most notable?

Two-thirds of the Group's business is concentrated in diverse verticals including live animals, automotive, aerospace, artworks, temperature-controlled shipments, valuables, and dangerous goods. In these verticals, Challenge Group stands as a recognized and trusted business partner. Anticipating the growth trajectory of the complex vertical segment, we are confident that our certified expertise and established capabilities will continue to secure additional market share.

While we foresee growth across various verticals, the most significant surge is anticipated in the e-commerce sector. This dynamic market presents



an exceptional opportunity for expansion, and we are strategically positioned to capitalize on this trend.

Are there any technological advancements or industry shifts that influenced the company's approach in 2023, and how is this expected to continue in 2024?

Challenge Group will continue to navigate external industry challenges amid global geopolitical uncertainty and economic volatility. Internally, Challenge Group is proactively addressing these challenges through a strategic fleet expansion, paving the way for the incorporation of new markets and destinations custom-tailored to meet customer requirements. Additionally, we have plans in place for a new digital sales channel and sustainability initiatives, both designed to bolster and elevate the overall customer experience.

Are there any plans for expanding the fleet or enhancing workforce capabilities in the near future?

Challenge Group is currently undertaking a strategic fleet expansion initiative, a pivotal move that will, in turn, facilitate the inclusion of new markets and destinations specifically tailored to meet the diverse requirements of our valued customers. In recent years, Challenge Group has diversified its fleet with the addition of a B767-300BDSF aircraft in August 2023, the continuation of the conversion program with two aircraft undergoing simultaneous conversion, and the full fleet of four B767 aircraft expected to be fully operational by Q3/2024.

Given the growing emphasis on sustainability, what initiatives is the Challenge Group undertaking to minimize its environmental footprint?

In alignment with our core values and dedication to sustainability, Challenge Group is actively implementing initiatives designed to support and enhance the overall customer experience. A key aspect of this strategy involves the introduction of eco-friendly practices in our operations in Liege, such as the integration of electric cars and equipment on the ramp both for Challenge handling and Challenge Technic contributing to a reduction in carbon emissions associated with ground operations, investing in electrical tractors for ground operations, and incorporating the use of Ground Power Units (GPU).

How does the company balance economic growth with environmentally conscious practices in the aviation logistics sector?

Challenge Group recognizes the imperative of harmonizing economic growth with environmental responsibility in the aviation logistics sector. We are dedicated to achieving sustainable growth that benefits our stakeholders, the industry, and the planet we share.

Are there plans to diversify revenue streams beyond the current service offerings, and if so, which areas are being explored?

Currently, our primary focus is on consolidating our offer and refining our value proposition within the airfreight and logistics industry. However, we remain ready to proactively tackle new challenges that may arise, always seeking opportunities

that can bring mutual benefits to our business partners.

Can you elaborate on Challenge Group's international presence and how it manages relationships with stakeholders in different countries?

Challenge Group boasts a robust network that spans key regions globally. Our international presence is strategically designed to cater to diverse markets and meet the evolving needs of our clients worldwide. Managing relationships with stakeholders in different countries is a cornerstone of our success. We approach this with a tailored strategy that recognizes and respects the unique cultural and business environment of each region.

Could you provide insights into the company's plans for expansion, new service offerings, or potential strategic partnerships in 2024?

In 2024, we are set to embark on a series of strategic initiatives to bolster our operations. A new hangar and a state-of-the-art maintenance station are in the pipeline for Challenge Technic, underscoring our commitment to expanding and enhancing our aviation services.

The imminent opening of additional destinations is a direct result of the recent expansion of Challenge Group's fleet. This growth not only amplifies our reach but also signifies our dedication to providing diverse and extensive options for our customers.

Moreover, Challenge Logistics is spearheading advancements in our technological infrastructure with a substantial investment in cutting-edge solutions like the Project44 tool. This innovative technology is poised to revolutionize our operations, offering seamless visibility and unparalleled transparency to our valued customers.

These comprehensive plans for 2024 reflect our unwavering dedication to growth, technological excellence, efficiency and sustainability, ensuring that Challenge continues to set industry benchmarks and provide top-notch services to our discerning customers.



India's burgeoning cargo industry needs tech and digitalization boost to reach potential

The country's cargo tonnage and revenue increased by 520% in recent years but Indian freight forwarders believe more can be achieved if the government can provide better infrastructure and tech-forward digital systems for both imports and exports.

By R. Chandrakanth

Despite regulatory and operational constraints in some of the Indian airports, the freight forwarding community is gung-ho about the potential that exists, both in imports and exports. The reason for this optimism is pretty clear – Indian airports have done good business in terms of cargo capacities and tonnage carried and are expected to do better, even as the government is emphasizing capacity building.

In 2022, Indian airports carried 3.1 million tonnes of freight, up from 2.5 million tonnes in the previous year. The increase was noticed in both international and domestic freight, the former registering an increase of 29% (1.9 million tonnes) and the latter by 24% (1.2 million tonnes).

Mumbai airport which is stressed out infrastructure-wise, nevertheless, saw a 40% increase to 214,054 tonnes and this is attributed to the thriving Indian economy.

Indian Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, impressed by the 520% increase in cargo revenue, said the private sector, if it wanted to achieve the 10 million metric tonne targets in cargo, had to join hands with the government and also focus on the transportation of smaller cargo loads from Tier-II and Tier-III cities to metros. The government is establishing as many as 33 new domestic cargo terminals by 2024-2025.

Enthusied by this potential, the Federation of Freight Forwarders Association of India (FFFAI) has been representing the government to



overcome some of the infrastructure and regulatory hurdles that persist, even while it is internally encouraging the freight forwarding community to go digital.

Untapped regional markets

The Chairman of FFAI, Dushyant Mulani, told Air Cargo Update the air freight sector has been having a good compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 5.5 percent and has the potential to expand as Indian manufacturing is coming of age. "Engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, information technology products, perishables and E-commerce, all are witnessing good growth.

Besides, India, which is recognized as a good transshipment hub, can provide transportation and logistics services to the neighboring countries of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Vietnam, etc.

Mulani said this regional market has been largely untapped. "The capacities are there and if the proposed 33 domestic cargo terminals materialize, then it further opens up opportunities."

Even while the present dispensation is trying to improve the logistics sector through various initiatives like UDAN (enabling regional air connectivity), Gati-Shakti (power of speed, improving logistics performance), etc, there are major infrastructural gaps.

"Take for instance, the Mumbai airport, it is stretched and stressed dealing with passenger and cargo growth, with almost no infrastructure development in decades. We are hoping that the Navi Mumbai airport which is slated to go operational at the end of 2024, will be able to facilitate increased cargo movement," said Mulani.

Mumbai needs another airport fast

The Chatrapathi Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai is a mess, where both passenger and cargo movements are pathetic, to say the least.

"Mumbai infrastructure is very poor. Private players have not invested,

unlike how the airports in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and New Delhi have done. Mumbai needs to gear up. The man-hours lost because of infrastructure issues are substantial. The only improvement we have seen has been the introduction of temperature-controlled systems, otherwise, there has been no improvement since 1995," Mulani noted.

Despite these hurdles, Mumbai has achieved commendable cargo growth, as the city happens to be one import EXIM gateway.

In FY 2022, Mumbai airport registered a 26% increase in international freight to 556,899 metric tonnes, while Hyderabad saw an 18 % increase to 75,546 tonnes. As regards domestic cargo, Mumbai witnessed a 40% increase to 214,054 tonnes and Hyderabad saw a 38 % increase to 64,529 tonnes, as compared to the previous year. The top three destinations that observed the highest imports via Mumbai airport included China, Germany and the USA.



While hailing the government's plans to develop multi-modal logistics parks (MMLPs), Mulani mentioned that the cost of operations for those leasing properties here needs to become economical.

"The cost of operations is high and unviable for many medium and small businesses in some of the parks. The new MMLPs have to keep that in mind, otherwise it does not make economic sense," said Mulani.

Talking about the phenomenal growth of the e-commerce sector, Mulani mentioned that it has huge potential as not all imports come through the 'courier channel'. Most of the products take the normal cargo channels – air freight or by sea – where the clearances are much faster.

Mulani said there are many issues that the regulators need to sort out, one of which is the dwell time of cargo. "We are working closely with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and a time-release study analysis has been done. Time-bound clearances are urgent and it has to be a joint effort of the trade/industry and customs," he said.

The freight forwarders have to be compliant with a lot of agility. They should pay customs duty online and on time, ensure that there is timely segregation of goods with the custodians, keep the documentation in order, among other things, if they have to see clearance of imported goods within two hours of arrival.

Mulani said unless the government comes up with a mandatory diktat that all stakeholders have to go digital, the adoption rate will not be as desired.

"The Customs department has gone digital, but other stakeholders, including some custodians such the Plant Quarantine unit, Assistant Drugs Controller, etc. are yet to go fully digital. Yes, the freight forwarders too have to move to the digital mode, away from all the paperwork. The FFFAI is actively working with the CBIC, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Shipping Ministry on the areas that need to go digital, starting with licensing," he said.

The FFFAI regularly conducts training programs, seminars, and workshops, among others, to encourage the freight forwarding community on various compliances. "But I believe, the government should make it mandatory for all stakeholders to go digital, leaving it to the stakeholders will be a gradual process as firstly it requires a mindset change. The government should take a clear position," said Mulani.

During the pandemic years, the cargo sector emerged as a promising area not just for Indian aviation but for global aviation and there was accelerated adoption of digitalization, which now has slowed down.

The Indian cargo sector which saw a growth rate of 9-10% since 2013-14, witnessed a huge jump in the last two years, registering 520% increase in cargo revenue. The cargo revenues touched Indian cargo revenue was at \$2.4 billion with 3.1 million metric tonnages having a CAGR of 13%. Today, India has 21 international and 35 domestic cargo terminals.

The Minister said, "Air Cargo had started as an underdog during the difficult Covid times but the industry was able to adapt and change to the new environment. During the times of Covid, we have rapidly expanded from having 7 Cargo Freighters to 28 Cargo Freighters in a short period of 3 years."

The Minister said it was imperative to work on ease of doing business in the cargo sector by making processes paperless, adapting automation, and digitalization which can make cargo processing swift.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation will be spending close to \$11.76 billion over 4 years in terms of setting up new greenfield airports and expansion of



The Customs department has gone digital, but other stakeholders, including some custodians such the Plant Quarantine unit, Assistant Drugs Controller, etc. are yet to go fully digital. Yes, the freight forwarders too have to move to the digital mode, away from all the paperwork. The FFFAI is actively working with the CBIC, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Shipping Ministry on the areas that need to go digital, starting with licensing."

Dushyant Mulani, Chairman of FFFAI

existing brownfield airports. Out of this, \$7.44 billion will be invested by the private sector and \$4.32 billion by the Government of India through the Airports Authority of India.

The Minister gave the example of jackfruit from Tripura which is finding market in the United Kingdom and Germany while King Chillies and Lemon from Assam are getting exported to London. This is a classic example of A2A i.e., Agriculture to Aviation, the link of two seemingly unrelated sectors being linked due to air infrastructure now coming up in remote areas in the country. It is for the freight forwarding community now to tap into these opportunities.



“Stay in the loop and never miss out for exclusive updates and exciting news!”

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS

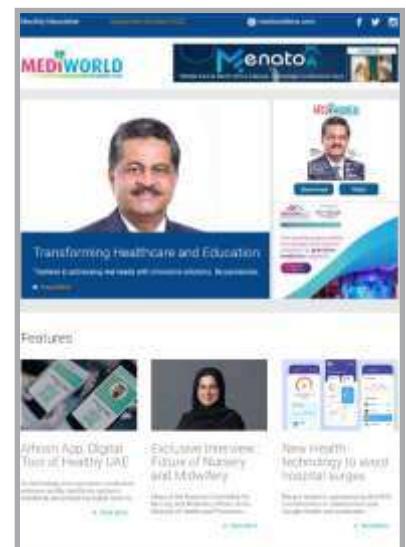
Scan below QR Code to get access



www.aircargoupdate.com



www.aviationguideem.com



www.mediworldme.com



How digital distribution is transforming the air cargo booking landscape

By Ayesha Rashid

The global air freight software market is projected to grow from \$6.34 billion in 2023 to \$7.41 billion by 2030, at a CAGR of 2.3% during the forecast period (Fortune Business insights)

Rapid advancements in digital technology have revolutionized the logistics and transportation industry in recent years, offering countless opportunities for air cargo companies to streamline their operations and improve efficiency.

As the demand for air cargo continues to grow, the industry needs to adapt and embrace the technological advancements that are shaping the way goods are being transported around the world.

From blockchain technology to artificial intelligence, these innovations are redefining the way air cargo is booked and managed, ultimately leading to a more cost-effective and customer-centric experience.

The global air freight software market is projected to grow from \$6.34 billion in 2023 to \$7.41 billion by 2030, at a CAGR of 2.3% during the forecast period (Fortune Business insights).

According to Web Cargo, in 2023, and over the last few years, airlines have provided digital air cargo offerings with impressively rapid adoption. Carriers representing over 50% of air cargo capacity are now digitized – a staggering

16x surge since 2018.

To cope with a daily landscape shift, caused by economic and geopolitical events, carriers accelerated their shift to digital tools (which is also the key stepping stone to enabling forwarder digital transformation).

Airlines realized that the only way to serve customers wherever, whenever they are needed, was by giving real-time access to carrier schedules, prices, and capacity for real-time eBooking.

Stephane Noll, Head of Digital Engagement and Transformation at CHAMP Cargosystems and Guillaume Crozier, dnata's SVP of UAE Cargo & Global Cargo Strategy, discuss the latest developments in digital distribution and how they are shaping the future of air cargo booking. They also spoke in detail about the role of AI in the digital distribution industry in an email interview with Air Cargo Update.

Current Trends in Digital Platform Adoption

The current trends in digital platform adoption for air cargo booking revolve around the integration of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain.

These technologies are being leveraged to enhance the transparency, efficiency, and security of the air cargo booking process.

Additionally, there's a growing emphasis on the development of user-friendly interfaces and mobile applications to empower shippers and freight forwarders with greater control and visibility over their cargo bookings.

The evolution of digital distribution platforms in air cargo booking is driven by the need to optimize operational processes, reduce costs, and meet the increasing demands of the market.

With the integration of advanced technologies, digital platforms are poised to reshape the future of air cargo booking by providing more agile and responsive solutions to the industry.

Crozier explains, "Airport community systems are certainly being adopted at a greater rate by the industry. They are an agile system when it comes to architecture and technology when we need better processing times and better security. Given the increase in cybersecurity threats, airport community systems are certainly being pushed forward more by many hub airports."

"dnata plans to implement our new-generation Calogi platform and airport community system, which is a scalable solution that we can implement across our network".

CHAMP Cargosystems' Stephane Noll said, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a transformative force, particularly accelerated by the e-commerce boom. From predictive analytics ensuring optimal inventory levels to route optimization minimizing delays, AI is reshaping logistics. Capacity planning, demand forecasting, and warehouse automation leverage AI for efficient operations. Supply chain visibility, risk management, and customer service benefit from AI tools, fostering the emergence of innovative players like Project44 and FourKites."

"Notably, AI aids document automation, exemplified by CHAMP A2ZScan, and enhances security screening for safer, compliant cargo transport. The air cargo industry's journey with AI continues, unlocking new dimensions of efficiency and innovation."

Digital Distribution Innovations

Assuming the role of technology in shaping the future of air cargo booking, it's an undeniable fact that disruptive technologies are also redefining the industry.

From blockchain to artificial intelligence, these innovations are revolutionizing the way air cargo is booked, managed, and tracked.

At the forefront of disruptive technologies in air cargo booking is blockchain, a decentralized and transparent digital ledger

that ensures the security and traceability of transactions.

By integrating blockchain into air cargo booking systems, stakeholders gain real-time visibility into the movement of goods, minimize the risk of fraud, and streamline the entire booking process. The use of blockchain technology also enhances data security and privacy, offering a level of trust and transparency that was previously unattainable.

Another essential component of the digital revolution in air cargo booking is artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies are optimizing logistics processes and decision-making. Intelligent algorithms analyze vast amounts of data to forecast demand, optimize routes, and automate pricing and capacity management.

By leveraging AI and machine learning, logistics companies achieve greater operational efficiency, reduce costs, and deliver a better customer experience. These technologies are revolutionizing the way logistics operations are executed, paving the way for a more intelligent and responsive air cargo booking ecosystem.

Stephane Noll says, "As the air cargo industry charts its course toward greater efficiency, the integration of blockchain technology, AI, and Machine Learning (ML) stands poised to redefine route planning, scheduling, and resource allocation. While ML is already optimizing passenger and integrator operations, its application in air cargo logistics is a strategic focus. From dynamic route planning, and predictive maintenance scheduling, to adaptive real-time decision-making, ML algorithms leverage real-time data and historical analysis. This transformative technology optimizes capacity planning, aircraft assignment, crew scheduling, and anomaly detection, ensuring a data-driven and adaptive approach. The industry's journey with ML heralds a new era of increased efficiency, cost reduction, and customer service enhancement, emphasizing the pivotal role of high-quality data in seizing these opportunities."

Online Booking Platforms

For dnata, Calogi has been a game-changer, allowing for seamless and efficient booking processes. With the use of this digital distribution, dnata now offers stakeholders a range of reliable, secure, simple, and cost-effective e-cargo business solutions without cumbersome paperwork and long wait times.

"Calogi is a comprehensive state-of-the-art air cargo services portal that offers stakeholders a range of reliable, secure, simple, and cost-effective e-cargo business solutions. Designed to simplify the cargo business, Calogi enables local supply chain stakeholders to interact seamlessly, thus enhancing the transaction process. Information is entered once by the originator and used throughout the shipment life cycle, making the process effortless and paperless."

"We position ourselves as a driving force for transformative change, making cutting-edge technology accessible and cost-effective for the air cargo industry. This enables us to connect with all our stakeholders, covering the handling operation from end to end, driving paperless volumes. This also helps us to comply with the increasing level of data exchange we need to have between customs or



across countries ahead of the export of the shipment, using IATA's Pre-Loading Advance Cargo Information (PLACI), or Inbound Control System," said Crozier.

Real-Time Tracking and Data Analytics

Data is crucial in the air cargo industry, and with real-time tracking and data analytics, companies can make more informed decisions.

Having access to real-time tracking allows companies to monitor their shipments in transit, while data analytics provide valuable insights into performance, customer behavior, and market trends.

Crozier adds, "The ICS is a principle guiding countries to increase the level of data they are sharing with the consignees, ahead of the shipment being exported.

"This is all important because it will be implemented into the airport community system and our data strategy in our OneCargo system, which will then become more and more capable and compliant. dnata continues to implement the OneCargo system, which serves as the foundation of the company's digitization strategy and aims to standardize procedures at all stations worldwide. By eliminating redundancies and manual check documents, OneCargo significantly increases operational efficiency.

"Calogi facilitates effective communication between GHA (Ground Handling Agents) and other industry stakeholders by providing a unified e-commerce platform. Calogi has changed the air cargo business forever in Dubai. Our tremendous success in the region is proof of the extent to which our solution meets the needs and expectations of the air freight community. And the bigger we became, the more benefits we offered to our subscribers".

According to Noll, Conversational AI and Chatbots, Sentiment Analysis, Multilingual NLP, Contextual Understanding, Voice Recognition, Interactive and Dynamic Content, Summarization and Abstractive Text Generation and AI-powered virtual Assistants collectively contribute to the evolution of customer service and communication within the air cargo industry. As NLP technologies continue to progress, we can expect more efficient, personalized, and seamless interactions between cargo companies and their customers, ultimately enhancing the overall customer experience.

The Implementation of Computer Vision Technology

Computer vision technology is an application of artificial intelligence that enables machines to interpret and understand digital images. The air cargo industry is on the verge of adopting computer vision technology to improve safety and efficiency.

The fields of use are very broad and include recognition and detection of airplanes, airport security and management, plane identification, autonomous flying of drones, and even missile guidance systems.

"Computer vision technology is also something we see as becoming key. This includes the upward trend to digitize the acceptance and handling process and give more real time visibility of their shipments inbound or outbound, to the customer, stakeholders or authorities. This is what we are currently doing day in, day out, and we continue to invest in new technologies to provide better efficiency and value for money for our customers," Crozier said.

Crozier further explains that diverse industry verticals are adopting emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, computer vision, data insights, and robotics process automation, among others. Therefore, air cargo must be at the forefront of its digital transformation.

"Building on our success, we are now branching out and taking our game-changing solution to the outside world, challenging traditional industry processes, and allowing all stakeholders, large and small, to conduct e-cargo" Crozier concludes our email interview.

Noll said, "to prepare for 5G Connectivity, Edge Computing, Autonomous Vehicles and Drones, Advanced Robotics, Explainable AI and AI Ethics, Digital Twins, Blockchain Technology, Natural Language Processing Advancements, Human-



Robot Collaboration Frameworks, Climate and Sustainability Initiatives and other emerging trends and technologies, companies in the air cargo industry should stay informed about technological advancements, engage in pilot projects to test new solutions, and invest in training and upskilling their workforce to adapt to the changing technological landscape".

According to Noll, by leveraging AI and robotics in Real-time Location Tracking, Sensor Integration, Cargo Screening, Image Recognition, Anomaly Detection, Secure Storage and Retrieval, Intelligent Surveillance and Integration with Regulatory Compliance, the air cargo industry can significantly enhance its security measures. These technologies provide a more proactive and efficient approach to cargo tracking, monitoring, and threat detection, ultimately reducing risks and strengthening the overall security posture of air cargo operations.

Noll further explained, "Air Cargo is currently experiencing challenges around attracting and retaining workers. New generations are not interested in moving boxes in warehouses or loading/unloading aircraft in challenging weather conditions. So, automation is no longer a luxury but an essential, as this is an opportunity to improve the attractiveness of our industry by making it more modern."

Adding, "The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the United States or the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) in Europe have both issued a roadmap for the implementation of AI and robotics. It is a learning process which will significantly evolve and requires piloting, like we have been doing for programs such as Advance Cargo Information (pre-loading and pre-arrival filings)".

IATA WORLD CARGO SYMPOSIUM

Hong Kong, SAR China
12 – 14 March 2024

Host Airline



Host Airport



JOIN US AT THIS YEAR'S **IATA WORLD CARGO SYMPOSIUM**

DRIVING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Celebrating our 17th anniversary, the **IATA's World Cargo Symposium** is the go-to event for thought-provoking sessions, engaging speakers and informative program topics. Embark on a journey of discovery as we delve into this year's World Cargo Symposium theme: 'Driving sustainable and inclusive growth.'

REGISTER NOW ON [IATA.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.iata.org/events)

For more details please contact: iatawcs@gl-events.com





Renault Trucks

switching to renewable energy with 17 hectares of solar canopies

The solar canopy project between Renault Trucks and TotalEnergies is set to be one of the largest in France. At its peak, the solar farm can produce over 22 megawatts which can cover the equivalent consumption of 17,500 people, or 43% of the population of Bourg-en-Bresse.

By Gemma Q. Casas



With renewable energy gaining more importance as the world grapples to fight global warming and climate change, one of Europe's biggest truck manufacturers is pursuing its ambitious project to transition to solar power.

Renault Trucks, in partnership with TotalEnergies, is pursuing its energy transition with far-reaching impact on its production and the site where it's building its own solar farm.

The company is aiming to equip the Bourg-en-Bresse industrial site with solar canopies covering an area of 17 hectares. This project, which is emblematic of Renault Trucks' shift to low-carbon operations, marks a significant step in the transition to renewable energy production since its electricity output will cover the equivalent consumption of 17,500 inhabitants.

With a total output of over 22 peak megawatts spread over 17 hectares, this solar canopy project is set to be one of the largest in France. Its electricity production will

cover the equivalent consumption of 17,500 people, or 43% of the population of Bourg-en-Bresse.

Part of the energy produced by the solar power station will be used by the plant. As a result, 30% of the site's electricity consumption will be supplied by the canopies, which will also have the added benefit of protecting both employees' vehicles and the trucks produced at the plant.

Biggest solar project in France

Renault's solar canopy project is one of the most extensive in France, and reflects its joint commitment with TotalEnergies to decarbonize their activities.

Marin de Montbel, Managing Director of TotalEnergies Renouvelables France, said, "We're extremely proud to be supporting Renault Trucks in its energy transition. Through this project, we're demonstrating our ability to develop technically complex

The company is aiming to equip the Bourg-en-Bresse industrial site with solar canopies covering an area of 17 hectares. This project, which is emblematic of Renault Trucks' shift to low-carbon operations, marks a significant step in the transition to renewable energy production since its electricity output will cover the equivalent consumption of 17,500 inhabitants.



projects that create value.”

Karine Forien, Vice President Strategy & Sustainability at Renault Trucks, sternly said, "At Renault Trucks, we're strongly committed to decarbonizing our industry and preserving our resources. We're backing up our commitments with tangible actions, including the electrification of our vehicle ranges, which immediately eliminates CO2 emissions in use, and the decarbonisation of our own operations. The energy transition is at the core of our strategy and this solar canopy project is a prime example."

The solar canopies are due to be commissioned in 2026.

The DOLPHIN Project

Continuing its investment in research to offer increasingly efficient, low-carbon vehicles that can adapt to changes in the transport industry, Renault Trucks unveiled in December the DOLPHIN Project.

Through the collaborative DOLPHIN project, Renault is set to develop an electric laboratory vehicle to pave the way for the future generation of electric long-haulage

trucks. The aim is to assess the potential for technological innovation in terms of energy and environmental optimization, safety, ergonomics, and on-board comfort.

The DOLPHIN project which stands for Development Original truck Lab for Physical INtegration is being led by Renault Trucks with a consortium of industrial and academic research partners based in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.

The consortium comprises Lamberet, a manufacturer of refrigerated semi-trailers; SafetyTech- a Gauzy Compagny, a specialist in driving comfort and safety solutions for coaches, buses, motorhomes and trucks; the Laboratoire de Mécanique des Fluides et



d'Acoustique, the Laboratoire Ampère, the Laboratoire de Mécanique des Contacts et des Structures, supervised by the INSA (National Institute of Applied Sciences), among others; and the Laboratoire de Psychologie Sociale et Cognitive, supervised by Clermont Auvergne University.

This collaborative project aims to build a demonstration vehicle, based on an all-electric truck, to test and evaluate technological innovations in three areas of research:

- **Energy and environmental optimization, with research focusing on the aerodynamics of the all-electric vehicle and, more generally, on the energy efficiency of the entire assembly.**
- **Safety for road users, with the integration of specific equipment to enhance the detection of vulnerable road users.**
- **Ergonomics and on-board comfort, with a completely redesigned dashboard and new interior fittings, provide an innovative on-board experience centered on the driver's well-being.**
- **New mobile applications enabling optimized management of bodywork equipment will also be tested.**

For Renault Trucks, the DOLPHIN project is a way of preparing its future generations of electric trucks by exploring and advancing the maturity of new technologies. Production of the laboratory truck will start in the spring of 2024.

The DOLPHIN project is the winner of the "CORAM 2022" call for projects (Comité d'Orientation pour la Recherche Automobile et Mobilité), which supports innovation projects that will accelerate the transition to the vehicle of the future. It has been funded by the French government as part of France 2030 and by the European Union - Next Generation EU as part of the France Relance plan.



Renault's legacy

Building on the legacy of more than a century of innovative French truck know-how, Renault Trucks has kept its headquarters in Lyon, France, since 1894, where all its medium and high tonnage trucks are designed and manufactured.

Renault Trucks also offers a range of services that includes solutions for financing and insurance, predictive maintenance, and optimizing fuel use, as well as the supply of spare parts.

With 60,000 vehicles sold in 2022, Renault Trucks is one of the world leaders in heavy goods vehicles. About 9,700 employees are involved in the design, production, and sales of Renault trucks and services worldwide. It is part of the Volvo Group, one of the world's leading manufacturers of trucks and transport solutions.

(Source: www.renault-trucks.com)



TIACA EVENT LATIN AMERICA

Opportunities for Growth

Register now to Connect, Discuss, and
Debate with industry colleagues doing
business with Latin America.

March 6-8, 2024

Sao Paulo, Brazil ✈

Gran Estanzplaza



Visit [TIACA.org](https://www.tiaca.org)





Air India starts rollout of new global brand identity

Gurugram, India: Air India has started rolling out its new global brand identity across guest touchpoints, beginning with a full switch to the new look across digital and online channels and rebranding at Delhi and Mumbai airports.

The airline's new identity is centered around 'Vista', Air India's logo icon and a symbol of limitless possibilities and progressiveness. The new look features Air India's new brand colors, including Air India red, aubergine, rose gold, and accents of gold, as well as the extensive usage of customized iconography and a bespoke font, Air India Sans—all crafted to reflect a bold, modern, and world-class airline with an Indian heart. The new Air India livery will also be carried on the airline's A350 fleet.

This spirit is now reflected in the following:

- New website, airindia.com, which is faster in performance, offers new features, and a refreshed design that showcases the airline's new brand identity. The new website and mobile app were designed and architected by Air India's teams in Kochi and Silicon Valley.
- New social media avatar: Air India's social media platforms have been revamped to reflect the new



brand identity, offering engaging content and an interactive platform for guests to connect with the airline and fellow travelers

- Gradual rollout at airports: Starting with Delhi and Mumbai airports, guests will begin to see the new branding come alive at various touchpoints, including check-in counters, boarding gates, lounges, and newly designed boarding cards. The rollout will progressively extend to other airports across Air India's growing global network in the coming weeks.

"The network-wide switch to our new global brand identity is a landmark moment for Air India," said Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India.

"It's not just about bringing our new logo and colors to customer touchpoints; it's a promise to our guests of a transforming travel experience that is modern, seamless, and infused with the warmth and hospitality that defines a new India and a new Air India. We are confident that the modern, world-class look of Air India will appeal to our guests globally and serve as a strong reminder of all the remarkable changes that have come or are to come to their Air India experience."

Pegasus Airlines setting up a technology innovation lab in Silicon Valley



Güliz Öztürk
CEO, Pegasus Airlines

The airline said having its tech innovation hub will enable it to monitor and assess on-site the latest technological advancements worldwide. This will strengthen its global competitiveness and fortify its firm commitment to technological innovation.

"Our investments in technology stand out as one of the key elements that set us apart. Since launching our digital transformation in 2018, we have been making significant investments. In line with our vision to become 'Your Digital Airline', we launched many initiatives to make the travel experience of our guests and the work experience for our employees easier, faster, and more efficient," said Güliz Öztürk, CEO of Pegasus Airlines.

"Now, we are getting ready to take an exciting new step to further the sustainable development of this digitalization journey," Öztürk continued: "We will continue to enhance and add value to our processes and our guests' experiences by experimenting with different technologies. This big move will further increase our company's global competitiveness."

Barış Fındık, Chief Information Officer at Pegasus Airlines, underscored the airline's commitment to providing the best digital experience for its guests and achieving the most efficient operational management in the aviation sector.

"At Pegasus, we are determined to become one of the world's most technologically advanced airlines. In pursuit of this, we are taking significant strides to evaluate collaboration opportunities with start-ups, universities, and other players in the field of technology and aviation," he said.

Istanbul: Pegasus Airlines has begun steps to set up its technology innovation lab in California's Silicon Valley in a bid to keep up with its digital transformation in line with its campaign "Your Digital Airline" launched in 2018.

5th Aerospace & Defence
MRO
 SOUTH ASIA
 SUMMIT

 **28 & 29**
FEB 2024
 **Le MERIDIEN**
 New Delhi-India

BLOCK YOUR DATES



[PARTNER]

ramco
 Aviation, Aerospace & Defence

[PRINCIPAL MEDIA PARTNER]

mro
 BUSINESS
 TODAY

[DIAM ND MEDIA PARTNER]

**AVIATION
 WEEK**
 NETWORK

[MEDIA PARTNERS]

AIRLINE

AIRPORT

**LOGISTICS UPDATE
 AFRICA**

AVITRADER

Aviation Guide

INDIAN TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

air cargo update

[ORGANISED BY]

AEROSPACE MEDIA GROUP

+91 22 27570550 / +91 7304237456  mrosouthasia@statmediagroup.com

www.mrosouthasia.com





Turkish Airlines lauds Türkiye's move to welcome citizens of UAE, Oman, Bahrain and KSA to explore the country with new visa exemption rule, e-visa and complimentary stopover services



Dubai, UAE: Turkish Airlines praised Türkiye's move to extend visa-free entry to the nationals of UAE, Oman, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia allowing them seamless entry to the country and spending up to 90 days without a visa.

The decision which took effect on 23 December 2023, issued through a presidential decree by Tayyip Erdogan, President of Türkiye, is an initiative set to promote cultural exchanges between Türkiye and said nations while encouraging tourists to explore the country's rich history, ancient wonders and vibrant heritage.

Türkiye is also providing e-visa options to expatriates living in GCC countries. Eligible travellers can apply to the Türkiye electronic visa (e-visa) system. Nationals of Algeria, Egypt, India, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines and Yemen holding a valid visa or valid residence permit from one of the Schengen countries, USA, UK or Ireland can apply for the e-visa.

"Türkiye is continuing to expand its international relations with the new presidential decree issued to exempt visas for nationals of UAE, Bahrain,

Saudi Arabia and Oman. This move is applaudable, as the country makes significant strides within its tourism sector to bolster more cultural exchange," said Ahmet Bolat, Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee at Turkish Airlines.

"Turkish Airlines supports visa exemptions, making travel even easier through free layover services for our flyers. As the national flag carrier of Türkiye, we're allowing our passengers to make memories they will never forget in beautiful Istanbul. Post the visa-free initiative, we look forward to people around the world choosing Turkish Airlines for their holiday trips as we offer a mini vacation during their journey," he added.

Passengers choosing Turkish Airlines to travel via Istanbul Airport to anywhere in the world can get a chance to discover Istanbul free of charge. Turkish Airlines' transit passengers are eligible to unlock two destinations with one flight ticket, as the national flag carrier offers two layover services, free hotel stay and free city tour, to explore the city of Istanbul when in transit.

Turkish Airlines' passengers booking flights with 6-24 hours layover time can take advantage of Touristanbul — a complimentary city tour service allowing flyers to savour and discover the rich heritage of Istanbul through 8 different guided tours.

Alternatively, passengers booking flights with at least 20 hours layover time in Istanbul Airport can get a chance to explore the city with the 'Stopover in Istanbul' layover service independently and at their own pace — with complimentary accommodation at partner hotels. For more information, please visit turkishairlines.com/en-int/stopover-and-touristanbul

Emirates & VFS Global Launch Visa-on-Arrival for Indian Travelers



Dubai, UAE: Emirates Airlines has joined forces with VFS Global to introduce a pre-approved visa-on-arrival program for certain Indian passport holders who have booked their travel with the airline. The initiative, exclusive to those with a valid six-month visa for the US, US Green Card, EU Residency, or UK Residency, will be administered by the Dubai Visa Processing Centre. Issued as a 14-day single-entry visa, it

allows passengers to streamline their arrival in Dubai, skipping queues and simplifying customs procedures. The service is available at the discretion of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreign Affairs. Emirates Airlines currently operates 167 weekly flights to nine destinations in India.

Qatar Airways commemorates network expansion in Saudi Arabia with special ceremony in AlUla

Operating two weekly flights to AlUla, Qatar Airways brings the total number of destinations to Saudi Arabia to 10, including 125 weekly flights across AlUla, Dammam, Gassim, Jeddah, Medina, NEOM, Riyadh, Tabuk, Taif, and Yanbu.



DOHA, Qatar: Qatar Airways made its inaugural journey to AlUla in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, marking the airline's commitment to providing unparalleled travel experiences across over 170 destinations worldwide.

The meticulously curated trip showcased AlUla as a new and exciting destination, offering travellers a unique blend of history, culture, and luxury.

The VIP delegation included His Excellency Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Culture of the State of Qatar who attended the inaugural flight, His Highness Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al-Saud, Minister of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, Acting Chief Executive Officer Royal Commission for AlUla, Abeer Al Akel, and Phillip Jones Chief Tourism Officer, Royal Commission for AlUla.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, commented: "As a destination, AlUla embodies the blend of history, culture, and luxury making it a must-visit city in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We are delighted to expand our network in Saudi to 10 destinations with this new addition and to serve our key market with diverse travel options across the world. Qatar Airways looks forward to

offering travellers in Saudi Arabia an unparalleled experience onboard our leading airline and through the Best Airport in the Middle East, Hamad International Airport."

The VIP tour showcased the revitalised Old Town, a historical gem with ancient traditional architecture revamped with a modern touch.

Their journey continued with an exploration of various sites, highlighting a synergy of modernity and history, notably a visit to the sustainable and biodiverse district, Oasis, as well as to multiple publishing houses, providing a deeper understanding of the local culture and its affinity to literature.

The pinnacle of the trip was the significant visit to the Kingdom's first UNESCO Heritage Site, Hegra, where His Highness Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al-Saud, Minister of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, received the VIP delegation for a photo opportunity which included a remarkable backdrop of the Tomb of Lihyan Son of Kuza.

Operating two weekly flights to AlUla, Qatar Airways brings the total number of destinations to Saudi Arabia to 10, including 125 weekly flights across AlUla, Dammam, Gassim, Jeddah, Medina, NEOM, Riyadh, Tabuk, Taif, & Yanbu.

AVIATION FESTIVAL

Asia

SAVE 10% WITH CODE

AIRGARGO10

BOOK NOW AND SAVE

28 – 29 February, 2024

The Suntec Centre, Singapore

UAE leads global efforts to tap and welcome some 1.3 billion people with disabilities to comfortably travel the world

Dubai: The UAE is leading global efforts to tap and welcome some 1.3 billion people with disabilities seeking to travel comfortably around the world.

At the recently concluded 4th Accessible Travel and Tourism International Conference held in Dubai, experts called on governments to tap the disability travel market's potential while the International Air Transport Association recommended the establishment of advisory councils and practical steps to welcome them.

Studies showed some 1.3 billion people across the world have disabilities. They account for 15 percent of the global population and their number is forecast to increase to 1.5 billion by 2050. About 35 percent of persons with disabilities are above 65 years old.

Increasing accessibility for disabled tourists is in high demand. About 134 million of them are travellers but their number is projected to rise to nearly 270 million in the years to come with an estimated tourism market value of \$210.48 billion.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, and Chairman of Emirates Airline and Group, who is also the event's patron, highlighted the UAE's efforts to become the friendliest destination for tourists with disabilities. The country is on the path to becoming the best destination in the world for tourism services.

"The UAE is a pioneering country in which people of determination receive special priority. The UAE is on the path to becoming the best destination in the world for tourism services, and I call for concerted international efforts to ensure the provision of accessible tourism for more than a billion people around the world," said Sheikh Ahmed.

Tap the market by removing barriers

Experts said the disability travel market has a greater economic impact on the travel industry than ever before. The missed opportunities for the global economy and tourism markets amount to 142 billion euros (AED 570 billion) per year due to the reluctance of millions of disabled people to travel in the face of the non-availability of services and facilities appropriate for them in several cities of the world.

Igor Stefanovic, Technical Coordinator of Ethics, Culture and Social Responsibility Department, UNWTO Specialist in Accessible Tourism, Spain, made a presentation on how tourism policies are evolving towards a more inclusive and accessible society.

"National tourism administrations and destination management organizations should advance their accessible tourism policies and strategies and they should go beyond mere completion of



legislative obligations by using international standards, guidelines, and nurturing the work of the tourism industry as accessibility is seen as a competitive advantage and a benefit for all," said Stefanovic.

Public administrations should apply ISO Standard 21902 Accessible tourism for all. Salah Zaki Khaled, UNESCO Representative for Gulf and Yemen, Director of UNESCO Regional Office in Doha, spoke on the growing accessibility of cultural and heritage sites and natural attractions.

"There is a growing demand for nature-based tourism along with visits to heritage sites and cultural and historical attractions. These sites getting more accessible and more open than ever before for disabled tourists," he said.

Evan Hall, Chief Executive Officer, of the Tourism Council of Western Australia, recommended the removal of barriers by encouraging tourism businesses to develop an online guide that provides visitors with specific and detailed information about a business' accessibility.

"Disabled adults are spending \$58.7 billion on their travel alone. Europe alone could get a potential revenue of 88.6 billion euros by 2025. More than \$17 billion per year can come from their travel in the US," he said.

At a Workshop held as part of the Accessible Travel and Tourism International Conference, IATA made some valid recommendations on how to improve mobility assistance services through better communication, shared accountability, and correct use of codes.

The workshop shared best practices and educational tools to overcome issues such as the lack of prenotification of the service, and misuse of wheelchair assistance as a one-size-fits-all solution. It was suggested to offer better services to customers and cater to the needs of passengers who are not disabled but still request assistance.

"Airports around the world have recognized and demonstrated their commitment, not least through the ACI Accessibility Enhancement Accreditation program—the only international assessment/accreditation program dedicated to airport accessibility to passengers with disabilities. There is no debate: Access to transport is a right for all people," said Luis Felipe de Oliveira, Director General of ACI World.



Be Part of Transformation in Aerospace

Convene with aviation's finest. Discover cutting edge innovations. Participate in strategic conversations.



Flying & Static Displays



Trade Programmes



Sustainable Aviation & Advanced Air Mobility Forums

Register for a Trade Pass Today!

Enjoy early bird rates when you register as a trade visitor by 30 November 2023.



Scan To Register

www.singaporeairshow.com/register



SINGAPORE AIRSHOW
2024 20-25 Feb
WHERE AVIATION'S FINEST MEET

Organised by



Strategic & Knowledge Partner



Supporting Media Partner



Business Intelligence Partner



Supported by



Made possible by



Hamad International Airport welcomed nearly 46 million passengers in 2023

Doha, Qatar: Hamad International Airport (DOH) surpassed all expectations in 2023 by welcoming a record 45,916,104 passengers, reflecting a remarkable 31% increase compared to 2022 when Qatar hosted the historic FIFA World Cup.

Since its inception in 2014, the airport, described as the "Beating Heart of Qatar", has welcomed close to 303 million passengers and handled more than 2.340 million tons of cargo during the period. Today it is ranked as among the world's busiest and best airports.

"At Qatar Airways Group, records aren't just numbers, they drive us to excel beyond expectations. Hamad International Airport's achievements are a reflection of our unwavering commitment to service

excellence. We spearhead the industry, as we consistently elevate the travel experience to new

heights. We're not simply moving people; we're shaping the future of travel. The airport's record-breaking year is a testament to the aviation industry's unmatched agility and unwavering spirit," said Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer.



"There is no finish line in the pursuit of offering exceptional travel experience. It is our goal to continuously refine journeys in 2024, with seamless connections, innovative services, and facilities that constantly evolve to match the ever-growing expectations of our discerning passengers," he added.

This year, the airport expects to keep the growth momentum with Qatar Airways announcing its 2024 network expansion plans.

Additionally, Hamad International Airport has strengthened its global network by welcoming esteemed airlines such as Vistara, Air Iberia, Xiamen, and others in 2023. Having served 255 destinations in 2023, including passenger, cargo, and chartered flight destinations – Hamad International Airport continues to expand its reach and enhance connectivity on a global scale.

The award-winning Hamad International Airport is a candidate for World's Best Airport at the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2024.

dnata's Airport Handling set to launch operations at Rome Fiumicino with €20 million investment



Rome, Italy: Airport Handling, a majority-owned subsidiary of leading global air and travel services provider dnata, has been awarded a seven-year ground handling license by Aeroporti di Roma and will establish operations at Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO). The company is targeting to launch operations in the Italian capital in the second quarter of 2024.

Airport Handling will provide a range of quality and safe ramp and passenger services to airlines in Rome. It has already committed an investment of

over €20 million to purchase new ground support equipment (GSE), including advanced electric vehicles. Having recruited a local senior management team, which is very familiar with the Rome market, Airport Handling is targeting to employ over 1,800 customer-oriented aviation professionals at FCO.

Airport Handling's expansion into Rome further strengthens its position as a leading air services provider in Italy. A trusted partner of over 60 airlines, the company's dedicated teams already handle more than 22 million passengers and 82,000 flights annually at the two Milan airports, Malpensa (MXP) and Linate (LIN).

Alberto Morosi, CEO of Airport Handling, commented: "We are proud to have secured operating license at another leading Italian airport as a result of a highly competitive tender process. Expanding into Rome Fiumicino is a significant milestone that aligns with our growth strategy and underlines our commitment to consistently enhancing our operations.

"We look forward to working with the airport to deliver high quality and safe services for our airline customers and their passengers travelling to or through Rome. I thank our partners for their continued trust in our services and our team for their hard work and dedication."

The majority stakeholder of Airport Handling is dnata, a global player in the combined air services industry, which operates at over 120 airports globally. Besides its ground handling business, dnata also provides catering & retail services at all major Italian airports, including Rome Fiumicino.

Serving over 300 airline customers, dnata's customer-oriented teams handled more than 710,000 aircraft turns, moved over 2.7 million tons of cargo, and uplifted 111.4 million meals in the financial year 2022-23.

Hamad International Airport is a candidate for World's Best Airport at the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2024.



Laurent Jossart, Liege Airport CEO

Liege, Belgium: Liege Airport described 2023 as a mixed year characterized by a decline in cargo volumes and an increase in passenger traffic.

The airport which is among the top cargo hubs in Europe handled over 1 million metric tons of cargo transiting through its facilities. Additionally, it welcomed 175,606 passengers, up by 5.2% compared to 2022.

Liege Airport said the years 2020 and 2021 had been

Liege Airport says 2023 mixed year with freight decline but passenger traffic increased

exceptional, with growth of 50% following the COVID-19 pandemic. It saw an explosion of e-commerce traffic despite the cessation of passenger flights (50% of air cargo is carried "belly" in passenger aircraft), while the normalization of the market had begun in 2022 and continued through 2023.

In 2023, the airport recorded 33,548 aircraft movements, including 23,917 cargo movements (down 14% vs 27,840 in 2022).

"FedEx's restructuring came into full effect in 2023 on top of a difficult international economic context (The war in Ukraine; downturn in the Chinese market; less consumer spending in Europe). All European cargo airports are experiencing a backlash. Even if the reference year is already a long way off, it's worth noting that we are gaining 11.5% in tonnage in 2023 compared with 2019 (pre-COVID year), while having digested the FedEx restructuring (from April 2022) and the departure of AirBridge Cargo following the outbreak of war in Ukraine (from February 2022). This sets us apart from most European airports, which are behind on their 2019 cargo figures," explains Laurent Jossart, CEO of Liege Airport.

But Jossart is optimistic about the airport's future, saying, "With the new operating license, our Board of Directors has adopted our ambitious Master Plan and Business Plan "Vision 2040". More than EUR 500

million will be invested over the next 20 years, to become a multimodal hub, exemplary in environmental terms, and a creator of jobs for our region."

Heathrow ends 2023 with the busiest-ever December

Heathrow, UK: Heathrow Airport says it ended 2023 with the busiest ever December with more than 6.6 million passengers traveling, bringing the total number of passengers it handled for the year to 79 million.

On December 22, the airport said almost 250,000 passengers passed through its facilities to reunite with their loved ones in time for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Nearly 800 flights were arriving and departing on its busiest Christmas day ever, Heathrow Airport said.

Transatlantic travel remained a key driver for passenger numbers with 1.6 million traveling to and from North America in December, as New York (JFK) clinched the top spot as our most popular destination this year with over three million passengers in total.

2023 was Terminal 5's busiest year ever, surpassing 33 million passengers for the second time since opening 15 years ago and serving 2.6 million passengers in December alone.

The gift-giving season saw Heathrow process 133,277 tonnes of cargo in December, culminating in a total of over 1.43 million tonnes processed in 2023 – this represents more than 2% growth compared



with 2022, with traders and forwarders taking advantage of our growing long-haul network to fly their goods around the world.

"As we move into the new year, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all our Team Heathrow colleagues and partners for their hard and successful work over the busy festive period, which went really well in terms of service and operations. By ending 2023 on a high, a strong foundation is laid for 2024 during which Heathrow will continue to grow and to facilitate the UK's potential for global growth," said Heathrow Airport CEO Thomas Woldbye.

Heathrow's full list of the 24 routes with over a million passengers in 2023, descending from highest passenger volume include New York (JFK), Dubai (DXB), Qatar (DOH), Dublin (DUB), Los Angeles (LAX), Madrid (MAD), Amsterdam (AMS), Frankfurt (FRA), Delhi (DEL), Istanbul (IST), Munich (MUC), Hong Kong (HKG), Toronto (YYZ), Singapore (SIN), Zurich (ZRH), Mumbai (BOM), Chicago (ORD), California (SFO), Paris (CDG), New Jersey (EWR), Edinburgh (EDI), Lisbon (LIS), Boston (BOS), Geneva (GVA).

Changi Airport Group collaborates with Aurrigo to trial new autonomous baggage handling vehicle

SINGAPORE: Changi Airport Group (CAG) and Aurrigo International plc (Aurrigo) are collaborating to test the latest version of its electric-powered autonomous vehicle, Auto-DollyTug, at Changi Airport.

With new ground-handling capabilities and more maneuverable, Auto-DollyTug® will be put through different scenarios to assess its efficiency and speed when it comes to aircraft turnaround times.

Combining the utility of a baggage tractor and the unit load device (ULD) carrying the capability of an airport dolly, the latest Auto-DollyTug® can rotate in its own length and, using the ground-breaking sideways drive system, move directly sideways and slide into tight spaces, enabling the swift delivery of a single ULD even when other GSE equipment is in place at the aircraft.

In an industry first, the new Auto-DollyTug® also features Aurrigo's auto-loading and release management system that adds bi-directional robotic arms to the body to allow the vehicle to autonomously load and unload the ULD from itself.

Professor David Keene, CEO at Aurrigo, explained: "Auto-DollyTug® is the result of a clean sheet of



paper thinking, as we didn't just want a modified conventional tractor that could tow some dollies to an area near the aircraft without a driver. Our technology can not only carry a ULD on its body, which maximizes carrying capacity without increasing the length of the train, it can also autonomously transfer that ULD directly onto a JCPL or High Loader."

The earlier versions of Auto-DollyTug® have been on trial at Singapore Changi Airport since February 2022 (Annex 1). This testing phase allowed Aurrigo to deploy its vehicles in a live airside environment and to push the limits of its technology in a hot and humid climate, where extreme rain events are a frequent feature of airside operations.

Poh Li San, Senior Vice President, Terminal 5 Specialised Systems at Changi Airport Group, noted: "Changi Airport is exploring the use of different vehicles across the airport, especially to automate airside operations. The latest Auto-DollyTug® has made its airside debut at our airport and we look forward to studying how it handles the challenges of a dynamic airport environment."

Stable air cargo year in 2023 at Vienna Airport

Vienna, Austria: Vienna Airport said it closed in 2023 with a total of 245,000 tons due to a slight decline in air freight trucking volumes. Its pharmaceutical handling, however, reached a record level.

Of the figure, 172,000 tons were handled for transport by cargo or passenger aircraft, up by 2 percent compared to 2022.

Declines of around 15,000 tons to just over 85,000 tons for freighters were offset by growth of more than 18,000 tons to around 87,000 tons in belly transport. The additional belly capacities also had an impact on road feeder services.

Trucking 2023 saw a decline of around 8,000 tons to around 73,000 tons. Pharmaceutical handling at the Vienna Pharma Handling Center, which is available to all airlines at Vienna Airport for the handling of temperature-sensitive goods, continued to develop strongly. At 3,675 tons, the previous record year of 2022 was slightly exceeded by 0.3 percent.

"2023 was a year of stabilization. We see the last few months of last year in particular, with significant growth in pharmaceutical handling and the elimination of restrictions on Asian traffic, as positive



signals for future development," said Michael Zach, who has been responsible for air cargo handling and, since January 1, 2024, for all ground handling at Vienna Airport as Head of Ground Handling.

As one of the most reliable and punctual hubs in the world, Vienna Airport has once again confirmed its high handling quality. In addition, the processes for handling shipments with the IOSS (Import One Stop Shop) procedure were defined in 2023 and handling capacities were also expanded by the Austrian authorities.

Vienna Airport has, thus, been identified as the perfect set-up to handle e-commerce shipments from major Chinese providers, quickly and efficiently with its IOSS procedure.

For the current year, conditions are also being created for the safe and compliant handling of lithium batteries. This is an important step towards being able to handle a wide range of consumer goods, from cell phones to e-bikes and e-cars. It is planned that the site will have IATA CEIV Lithium Batteries certification in the third quarter.



Abu Dhabi Airports appoints Elena Sorlini as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: Abu Dhabi Airports, the operator of Abu Dhabi's five commercial airports, has officially appointed Elena Sorlini as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Sorlini transitions into the role permanently after serving in an interim capacity since June 2023.

Since joining Abu Dhabi Airports, Sorlini has overseen the successful opening of Abu Dhabi International Airport's new state-of-the-art Terminal A, which ranks among the largest airport terminals in the world.

Additionally, she has played an important role in maintaining the steady increase of passenger traffic numbers, which continue to experience year-on-year growth, as well as attracting new airlines and routes to Abu Dhabi, including the French national carrier Air France.

With a capacity to host 45 million passengers annually and accommodate 79 aircraft at any given time, the airport strengthens the aviation sector's contribution to Abu Dhabi's diversified economy.

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Advisor of Special Affairs at the Presidential Court and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Abu Dhabi Airports, said: "On behalf of the board, we are delighted to welcome Elena Sorlini as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Airports. With her proven track record of success in the aviation sector, we have full confidence in her ability to lead the organization through its next phase of growth, underscored by our commitment to solidifying Abu Dhabi's position as a global tourism destination and a leading aviation hub. I wish her all the best in her new role."

Sorlini said she's honored to have been officially appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Airports.

"Following the opening of Terminal A, I remain committed to unlocking the full growth potential of Abu Dhabi's tourism and trade industry. The capital boasts a wealth of offerings and a



Elena Sorlini

strong reputation for excellence and innovation, and our airports truly serve as gateways to rich cultural heritage and commercial opportunities. I look forward to contributing to the recognition of Abu Dhabi International Airport as one of the best airports in the world, meeting the highest standards of quality for our passengers," she said.

Sorlini brings more than 20 years of experience in the aviation industry. Before joining Abu Dhabi Airports, she held various senior management positions, including Executive Director of Transport & Logistics at ADQ, Vice President of Group Corporate Strategy at Oman Aviation Group and Strategy Director at Copenhagen Airports.

Prior to that, she served as Vice President at Macquarie Airports, one of the largest private airport owners and operators in the world. She is also a member of the board at Etihad Airways, Abu Dhabi Aviation and ADQ Aviation and Aerospace Services.

Federico Mosqueira is the new Director of Operations at Frankfurt Cargo Services

Frankfurt, Germany: Frankfurt Cargo Services (FCS), the largest independent cargo handler at Frankfurt Airport, has appointed Federico Mosqueira as its new Director of Operations from January 1, 2024.

Mosqueira, 45, has more than 20 years of experience in the operational management of companies in the air cargo and supply chain industry. Prior, he worked for LATAM Airlines in various functions (Mexico, Central America and USA) and for Qatar Airways as Manager of Cargo Network Operation based in Doha.

"Federico Mosqueira is an absolute industry expert, has an excellent network and is already familiar with the Frankfurt location. He is an ideal fit for FCS, both professionally and personally, and we are convinced that he will quickly help us

significantly in mastering the challenges that are currently driving the cargo industry. We would like to expressly thank Christoph Cyranek for his commitment and his great work during the transition phase," said Claus Wagner, Managing Director of Frankfurt Cargo Services.

Mosqueira is familiar with Frankfurt due to his time as Director Handling Operations Europe for LATAM Airlines (Cargo). Most recently, he worked for Amazon where he was a key player to launch Amazon AIR in Europe.

Mosqueira was born in Mexico and has been living in Germany for 13 years now. The father of two speaks fluent Spanish, English and German.



Federico Mosqueira

Under the Patronage of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum
President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group

airportshow

Co-located Events



ATC FORUM



AIRPORT SECURITY



GLOBAL AIRPORT
LEADERS' FORUM

CONNECTING THE GLOBAL AIRPORTS INDUSTRY

14-16 MAY 2024 | DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTRE

www.theairportshow.com

Book Your Stand



Register Your Interest



Supporters

هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority



مطارات دبي
DUBAI AIRPORTS

onata



dans
دبي لخدمات الملاحة الجوية
DUBAI AIR NAVIGATION SERVICE



جمارك دبي
DUBAI CUSTOMS



شرطة دبي
DUBAI POLICE





Upcoming Events



Air Cargo India Mumbai

The international air cargo event taking place in Mumbai is both an exhibition as well as a conference. The exhibition is aimed to give experts from the air cargo industry a perfect opportunity to exhibit their products and services. During the conference a variety of topics regarding for example infrastructure facilities, new simplified procedures and technical possibilities are discussed. Overall, the show constitutes a platform for air cargo professionals to come together, network and to do business.

The Air Cargo India will take place on 3 days from Wednesday, 14. February to Friday, 16. February 2024 in Mumbai.

14-16 February, 2024
Mumbai, India

5th Aerospace & Defence, MRO South Asia 2024

The 5th AEROSPACE & DEFENCE, MRO SOUTH ASIA 2024, organized by STAT Times, is a regional Summit spotlighting the emerging opportunities within the MRO industry in the region. This event, taking place on February 28th-29th, 2024, in New Delhi, serves as an exceptional platform for the air cargo industry and all prospective players. Join to connect with industry experts, airlines, MRO service providers, and solution vendors, forging invaluable connections and exploring avenues for growth and profitability.

The event will offer technical presentations, discussions led by industry leaders, and insights into cutting-edge innovations in technology, digitalization, and automation, all of which are transforming the maintenance and repair sector. This event unveils the limitless potential in the world of aerospace maintenance and repair.

28-29 February, 2024
New Delhi, India

World Cargo Symposium 2024

The World Cargo Symposium (WCS) is the largest and most prestigious air cargo annual event. The 2023 edition brought 1250 delegates to Istanbul, Türkiye.

The WCS 2024 will continue offering plenary sessions, specialized streams, workshops, and executive summits, tackling aspects related to technology, innovation, security, customs, cargo operations, and sustainability.

12-14 March, 2024
Hong Kong (SAR), China AsiaWorld-Expo

MRO Middle East

Attracting over 6,000 attendees every year, MRO Middle East is the largest event of its kind in the region and is a unique opportunity to meet the entire industry under one roof.

Co-located with Aircraft Interiors Middle East, the two-day exhibition features 200 international exhibitors representing all levels of the airline supply chain.

Learn from experts at the Go Live! Theater and meet key decision makers from airlines, MROs, OEMs, lessors and suppliers.

05-06 March, 2024
Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai, UAE

23rd Airport Show

The 23rd Airport Show will bring together the world's leading airport suppliers and services providers, as well as aviation leaders and regional decision-makers to showcase the latest innovations and technologies in the industry. This year's theme is "Sustainability and Innovation," reflecting the industry's focus on embracing cutting-edge technology and greener initiatives to drive growth and efficiency.

With its co-located events ATC Forum, Airport Security Middle East, and the Global Airport Leaders' Forum, the unparalleled three-day event known as the Airport Show will host exhibitors from all over the world.

14-16 May 2024
Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai, UAE

Air Cargo China 2024

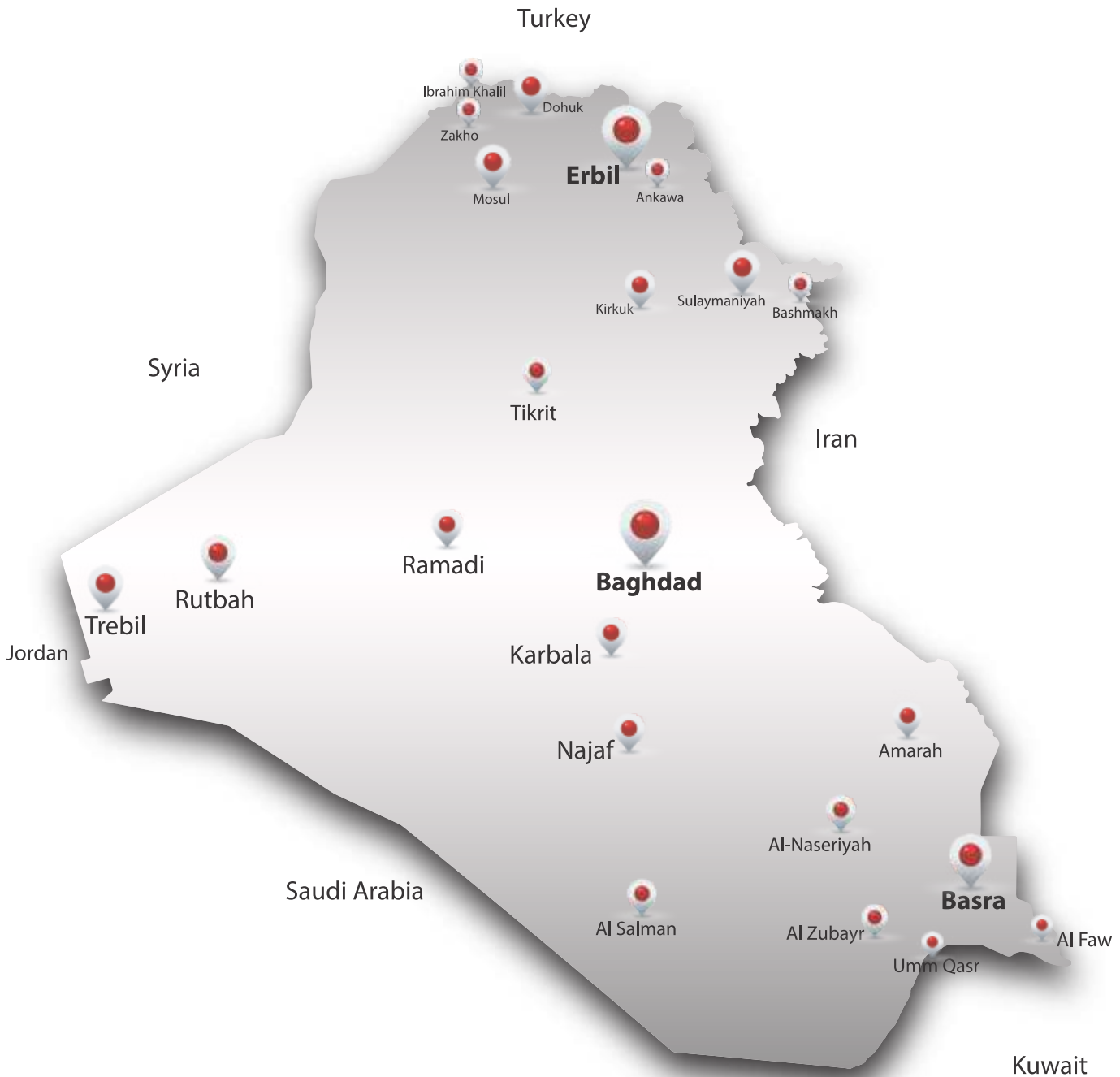
Asia's biggest air freight exhibition will be held once again at Shanghai New International Expo Center. Held for the past 12 years, next year's event is expected to be more attuned to the post-pandemic realities, with focus on both international and regional aspects. All participants can attend the event free of charge.

25-27 June 2024
Shanghai New International Expo Center
Shanghai, China



MATEEN

express & logistics



Connecting IRAQ to the World

Air, Ocean & Land

Customs clearance at all entry points. Door delivery & pick up.
E- Commerce logistics with COD. Cargo insurance all over Iraq.

mateenexpress.com
+971 4 2140 100

FLY BETTER


Emirates
SkyCargo

THE WORLD WORKS BETTER WITH EMIRATES SKYCARGO

Keeping fruits fresh throughout their journey
to more than 140 destinations worldwide.

[SKYCARGO.COM](https://www.skycargo.com)