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Fueling a Greener Future

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Director of Sales and Product, Cargojet



A NEW JOURNEY FROM TURKISH CARGO

THE LONELY KOALA

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New Year, New Possibilities

The pandemic may have ended but the years that followed are still marred with numerous challenges for the global community barely recovering from the worldwide health crisis never before seen in modern history.

The challenges in 2023 were many and varied with profound impacts on people and their environment with spiraling long-term consequences.

They include natural disasters like the deadly February 6, 2023 twin earthquakes with 7.8 and 7.5 magnitudes that struck southern Turkey near the Syrian border. The incident displaced about 14 million people with deaths reaching over 50,000 in Turkey and about 8,476 in Syria.

In September 2023, a strong earthquake also struck Morocco leaving thousands displaced. Nearly 3,000 people died in the incident and thousands more were wounded.

In the same year, different parts of Europe were damaged by heavy rains and flash floods that destroyed billions worth of properties. Add to that are its problems with drought and other environmental challenges.

Across parts of Africa, Asia, and the Americas, people are still struggling to survive as their countries fight unprecedented droughts, heavy storms, and other natural calamities.

Geopolitical conflicts are also affecting the pace at which the world is recovering from the pandemic. There's the issue of the continuing Russia-led war against Ukraine which will enter its third year after February 24. Add to that is the deplorable situation in Gaza with Israel continuing its assault against this tiny strip of land in Palestine in retaliation for the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, in Israel.

In all of these situations, the air cargo industry plays a crucial role in supporting lives and promoting stability and peace despite the difficult situations.

The industry must always be ready to respond to global calamities and other situations that need its expertise. There's no rest. But its reward lies in creating new possibilities in a world confronted with old and new challenges.

Happy New Year!

Gemma Q. Casas

Editor-in-Chief

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FROM A CRAMPED BASEMENT WORKING IN THE IT INDUSTRY TO THE EXPANSIVE WORLD OF AIR CARGO, THIS EXECUTIVE NOW CIRCLES THE PLANET AND CHILLS OUT PLAYING GOLF WITH HIS BUDDIES



Sameer Subedar
Director of Sales and Product, Cargojet

"I'm the type of person that'd rather buy an experience than buy a commodity," Sameer asserts, encapsulating his audacious approach to life. His journey into the air cargo industry, marked by twists and turns, echoes the sentiment that calculated risks often pave the way for remarkable success. From his roots in IT to the dynamic realm of air cargo, Sameer's professional evolution is a narrative of bold decisions and an unyielding spirit.

architectural wonders of Istanbul, he thrives on the richness of old-world charm and cultural immersion. "I love walking back in time," Sameer shares, emphasizing his penchant for destinations like Portugal and Turkey over modern metropolises.

Juggling the demands of a dynamic sales career that keeps him constantly on the move, Sameer shares insights into his approach to work-life balance. Early marriage and fatherhood heightened his sense of responsibility, emphasizing the need to create time for family amidst career pursuits. Adopting the mantra "be here now" from Lisa Lisson, former president of FedEx Canada, Sameer underscores the importance of undivided attention in each moment—be it at work, with family, or pursuing personal hobbies. Integrating family into daily activities, like shared gym sessions and meals, Sameer strives to shut out distractions and focus on the present. Weekends bring a cherished ritual—an obligatory family breakfast—a simple yet powerful tradition in the Subedar household, reinforcing the significance of family amidst the hustle.

Reflecting on his career, Sameer acknowledges the pivotal role of mentorship. "The role model is someone that hears your ideas, lets you run with them, and then helps you figure out what you did right and wrong," he articulates. This ethos of learning through trial and error extends beyond the professional realm, shaping Sameer's growth philosophy.

Addressing the younger generation, Sameer advocates for exploration and diversification. "Try different things, try different industries," he advises, recognizing the complexity of choosing a career path at a young age. His call is for patience and perseverance, urging the upcoming workforce to embrace the journey rather than succumbing to the allure of instant gratification.

For Sameer, that path led him from a cramped basement to the expansive world of air cargo, from IT spreadsheets to negotiating multi-million dollar deals. His story is a reminder that success often lies in the unexpected, in embracing detours and daring to chase your passions, even when they seem miles off course.

Sameer Subedar, Cargojet's Director of Sales and Product, orchestrates the global movement of essential goods. Yet, his journey started in an IT basement, where a spark for planes lit a path away from boardrooms to the air cargo world. Sameer's story is a living example of the transformative force of pursuing one's passion, no matter how unconventional the route is.

"I'm the type of person that'd rather buy an experience than buy a commodity," Sameer asserts, encapsulating his audacious approach to life. His journey into the air cargo industry, marked by twists and turns, echoes the sentiment that calculated risks often pave the way for remarkable success. From his roots in IT to the dynamic realm of air cargo, Sameer's professional evolution is a narrative of bold decisions and an unyielding spirit.

Away from the hustle and bustle of the air cargo world, Sameer finds solace in the greens of the golf course. "It's just you and your friends that you're golfing with," he reflects, highlighting the therapeutic nature of the sport. As winter blankets Canada and golf takes a hiatus, Sameer's newfound love, pickleball, takes center stage. The smaller tennis-court version of the game becomes a family affair, echoing laughter in the local gym.

"My favorite type of food is Thai food," Sameer reveals, his passion for diverse flavors evident. A self-proclaimed foodie, he shuns franchise restaurants in favor of local, authentic experiences. During travels, Sameer seeks out the charm of mom-and-pop restaurants, immersing himself in the culinary tapestry of different cultures.

For Sameer, travel is more than a leisurely pursuit; it's a journey of self-discovery. From the cobblestone alleys of Lisbon to the



Emirates SkyCargo to build on 2023 successes and advance its long-term strategic growth plans

The cargo airline carried 1.183 million tons from January to mid-December 2023. And expects delivery of four new Boeing 777-200Fs in 2024 and a fifth aircraft in 2025; in addition to Airbus 310 wide-body passenger planes on its order book.

“2023 was a pivotal year for Emirates SkyCargo. It expects delivery of four new Boeing 777-200Fs in 2024 and a fifth aircraft in 2025, in addition to Airbus 310 wide-body passenger planes on its order book. Emirates SkyCargo, however, continues to outperform the market growth, uplifting over 1,183,000 tonnes from January to mid-December, a solid 7% increase compared to last year.

Nabil Sultan

Divisional Senior Vice President,
Emirates SkyCargo.

Dubai, UAE: Emirates SkyCargo, the cargo arm of the world's largest international airline, wraps up 2023 as a major year of growth and investment ushering in a future with double capacity and further cementing its leading position in global air logistics.

“2023 was a pivotal year for Emirates SkyCargo. It expects delivery of four new Boeing 777-200Fs in 2024 and a fifth aircraft in 2025, in addition to Airbus 310 wide-body passenger planes on its order book.

Emirates SkyCargo, however, continues to outperform the market growth, uplifting over 1,183,000 tonnes from January to mid-December, a solid 7% increase compared to last year. Looking to the future, we are well-positioned to steadily scale up operations in 2024, continuing our strategic growth to ensure we lead the industry in solutions that are fast, reliable, flexible, and efficient,” said Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo.

Reaching every corner of the globe

In line with the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33) Emirates SkyCargo is on a journey to grow Dubai's position as the world's largest logistics hub, expanding its fleet and network to better serve global customers. In Q1, Emirates SkyCargo leased two Boeing 747-400Fs, unlocking immediate additional cargo space in response

to high customer demand. These aircraft join its fleet of 11 Boeing 777Fs and 251 passenger aircraft.

Further expansion is on the horizon, with four new Boeing 777-200Fs expected in 2024 and a fifth aircraft in 2025. This order is in addition to Airbus 310 wide-body passenger aircraft that Emirates has on the order book, which will see deliveries of new aircraft, and new cargo capacity, through to 2035.

Building on its competitive global connectivity, Emirates SkyCargo extended its reach in Canada and North America through strategic interline cooperation with Air Canada Cargo. Customers are now able to book shipments that will travel on Air Canada Cargo flights via e-SkyCargo, expanding Emirates SkyCargo's reach to over 60 cities in Canada and more than 150 cities globally.

Ever-evolving product portfolio

In May, Emirates SkyCargo reinforced its multi-vertical product portfolio, with the launch of two new bespoke products under its Life Sciences and Healthcare vertical. Addressing specific transportation challenges in healthcare, Emirates Vital is a specialist product designed to transport clinical trials, cell and gene therapies, and human samples, while Emirates Medical Devices enables the transport of everything from pacemakers to MRIs, following GDP specifications. Since its launch, Emirates SkyCargo has uplifted almost 1,000 tonnes of highly sensitive cargo, using these two products alone.

Emirates Delivers expanded operations to Kuwait, providing door-to-door international delivery of items purchased from the UK and the US to savvy e-commerce shoppers. Recognizing the opportunity in the wider Middle East region which has previously been underserved when it comes to e-commerce shipments, Emirates Delivers is preparing to significantly scale in 2024, offering fast, reliable, and cost-effective delivery solutions.

Advancing digitalization strategy

Throughout 2023, Emirates SkyCargo helped shape the digital landscape for cargo operations. In addition to its own online booking platform on e-SkyCargo, the airline's capacity is now available on two of the biggest digital marketplaces, CargoAi and WebCargo with plans to further expand its digital footprint in early 2024. In October, Emirates SkyCargo launched a landmark host-to-host connection with global freight forwarder, Kuehne+Nagel, providing direct access to its market-leading products and services on Kuehne+Nagel's internal booking engine.

New brand umbrella

Reflecting Emirates SkyCargo's wider contribution to global trade, the airline launched a new campaign showing how 'The World Works Better with Emirates SkyCargo'. Disrupting the traditional USP-focused advertising of the

cargo industry, The World Works Better has become the mantra by which Emirates SkyCargo operates, providing tangible impact to people and businesses all over the world.

Extending a lifeline to global communities

Committed to driving positive impact in the communities it serves around the world, Emirates SkyCargo is no stranger to humanitarian missions. Following the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in February, Emirates SkyCargo, in collaboration with the International Humanitarian City (IHC) swiftly established an airbridge to Istanbul. Dedicating cargo space on its daily flight to Istanbul across a two-week period Emirates SkyCargo and IHC ensured a steady flow of emergency supplies to on-ground NGOs.

More conscious operations

Emirates SkyCargo continues to focus on meaningful sustainable and environmental initiatives that drive impact, both in its own operations and across the industry. From on-ground programmes that ensure 75% of all plastic sheeting in the airline's Dubai-based facilities is recycled through to optimizing the way aircraft is loaded, more environmental and sustainably conscious operations will remain a priority for Emirates SkyCargo through to 2024 and beyond.

In August, the Emirates Group achieved the IATA Environmental Assessment (IEnvA) Stage One and the IEnvA Illegal Wildlife Trade module certifications, an achievement that Emirates SkyCargo contributed to significantly. Already a global leader in the prevention of illegal wildlife trafficking, the certification is an acknowledgement of the company-wide commitment to taking action.

As 2023 draws to a close, Emirates SkyCargo shows no signs of slowing down. Reflecting its confidence in the future of air logistics, and to serve its customers in a dynamic landscape, the company has laid out ambitious growth plans, including investments in digital capabilities, adding 20 new destinations to its freighter network, and doubling existing capacity over the next decade.

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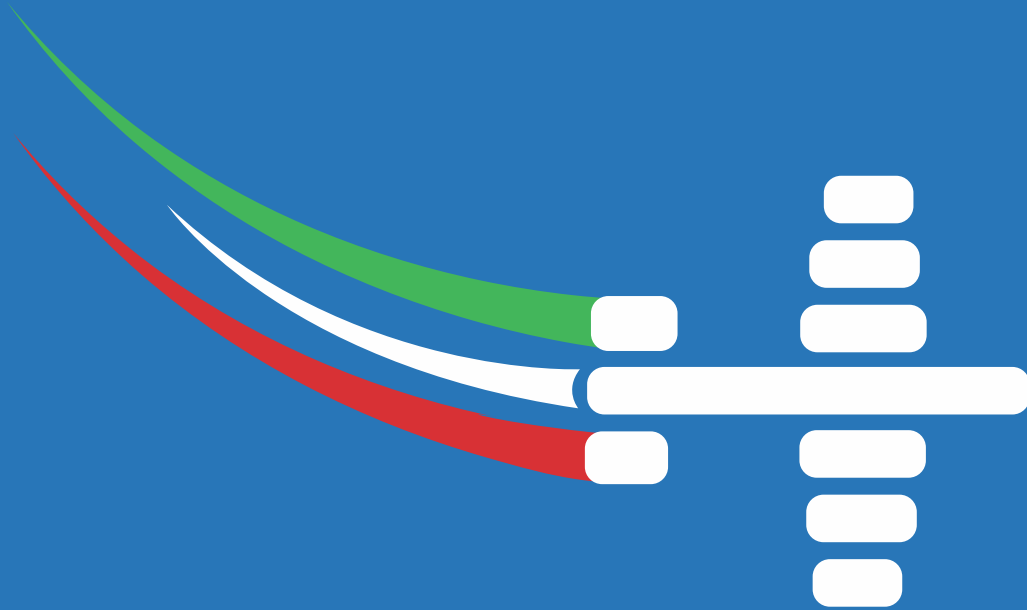


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China Cargo expands its partnership with WFS in North America for the launch of Miami freighter services in Q1 2024

Paris/Singapore: China Cargo Airlines is extending its relationship with Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a member of the SATS Group, in North America with a new handling contract to mark the start of the first services by a Chinese airline to Miami.

The airline will launch three Boeing 777 freighter flights a week to Miami in January 2024 from Shanghai Pudong International Airport. China Cargo has awarded WFS a three-year contract to handle its cargo, including high volumes of e-commerce traffic, perishables, seafood and general cargo.

WFS has supported China Cargo's growth in Los Angeles since 2006. It now handles 18 freighter services a week for China Cargo in LAX. The airline also partnered with WFS again in November 2022 when it commenced all-cargo services to New York JFK, now served by seven freighter flights per week.

The handling partnership also extends to Seattle, a technical stop for China Cargo flights. WFS has provided ground handling for more than 20 flights between Pudong and Seattle every week for the previous 10 years, as well as an extra 30 to 50 charter services annually during the



peak season for cherry exports.

“WFS is proud to be a trusted and growing partner of China Cargo Airlines, testament to the reliability of our freighter and cargo handling services in North America. We greatly value the loyalty of China Cargo Airlines to our warehouse and ramp operations.

“In fact, this year we celebrate our 25th anniversary of supporting China Eastern/China Cargo and its clients, which began in 1998 with our first contract in Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG). As the airline's flight frequencies and network expand, we are confident that our collaboration will lead to further growth prospects in the future,” said Jose Canales, Senior Vice President, Commercial & Business Development, Americas, at WFS.

OAG Data: Kuala Lumpur to Singapore Changi is the Busiest Global International Route in the World



In its 2023 Busiest Routes in the world, powered by OAG's Global Airline Schedules Data, the busiest global international route is Kuala Lumpur (KUL) to Singapore Changi (SIN) with 4.9 million seats. Cairo (CAI) to Jeddah (JED) is #2 with 4.8 million seats, up from 3.4 million in 2019.

London Heathrow (LHR) is the #4 Busiest Global Airport in the world this year with 49,370,859 seats. Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL) ranks #1 and Dubai International Airport (DXB) ranks #2.

Of the busiest domestic routes, Beijing (PEK) to Shanghai Hongqiao (SHA) is #1 in China and Honolulu (HNL) to Kahului (OGG) is the busiest in the U.S.

“Asia continues to have the busiest routes in the world due to its popularity as a tourism hotspot,” said John Grant, chief analyst at OAG. “Although capacity is not back to 2019 levels, London Heathrow remains a pivotal hub for global air travel.”

LONDON: Asia-Pacific has the busiest routes in the world, claiming 7 of the Top 10 global international and 9 global domestic routes with Kuala Lumpur to Singapore Change topping the list worldwide, according to the findings of OAG, the leading data platform for the global travel industry.



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Hactl's SuperTerminal 1 is world's first air cargo terminal equipped with intelligent cargo thermal detection system that enhances aviation safety

Hong Kong: Aerovision Technology Limited (ATL) and Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (Hactl) have signed a collaboration agreement to install ATL's patented intelligent cargo thermal detection system at suitable locations within Hactl's SuperTerminal 1.

This made it the world's first air cargo terminal equipped with an intelligent cargo thermal detection system, which will further enhance the safety and reliability of cargo inspection to address the increasing volume of hazardous air cargo and mitigate potential fire risks.

Hactl is located in Hong Kong International Airport, one of the busiest cargo and passenger airports in the world.

The collaboration agreement was signed on 14 December 2023, at Hong Kong Asia World Expo by Ir Dr. Angus Cheung, CEO of ATL, and Wilson Kwong, Chief Executive of Hactl. The signing ceremony was attended by Michael Wong Wai-lun, Deputy Financial Secretary of HKSAR Government, Cui Xiaofeng, Deputy Administrator of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), and over 1,000 guests.

The newly introduced intelligent cargo thermal detection system, developed by ATL through innovative and patented technologies, holds significant importance in the safe handling of air cargo.

By combining advanced thermal imaging technology, thermodynamics, fluid mechanics, data analytics, and artificial intelligence, ATL has overcome the limitations of existing thermal energy monitoring techniques. The system can monitor the temperature of different cargo materials in various environments in real time and quickly identify any abnormal conditions, triggering alerts.

This will further enhance the reliability, safety, and service levels of Hong Kong's air cargo industry. And, it will not only help prevent potential fire hazards but also reduce risks and losses faced by airlines, cargo handling



companies, airports, and passengers, enhancing the sustainable development of the aviation and logistics industries.

As part of the collaboration, ATL will provide comprehensive customized services based on the needs of Hactl, including system design, supply, installation, commissioning, training, and maintenance support. Additionally, the two parties will collaborate closely to explore new technologies and solutions to meet the future development and changing demands of the air cargo industry.

Wilson Kwong, Hactl's Chief Executive, commented: "Hactl's SuperTerminal 1 is the single largest air cargo terminal globally and an essential part of Hong Kong's air cargo industry. We are committed to continuous development through the adoption of innovative technologies. This collaboration with ATL will introduce new cargo thermal detection technology to our terminal, further improving the reliability of cargo inspection, contributing to aviation safety and strengthening the operational resilience of our terminal. It also sets a new benchmark for the air cargo industry."

One Air welcomes a second freighter to its Boeing 747-400 fleet

London: British all-cargo airline One Air has taken delivery of its second Boeing 747-400 freighter last December.

One Air commenced flight operations in July after receiving its Air Operators Certificate from the UK Civil Aviation Authority. The additional B747-400BDSF will support its current flying program offering full charter services connecting Hong Kong and London Heathrow.

The latest addition to the airline's fleet, acquired on a long-term lease, is a former Air Canada passenger aircraft which was later converted to a freighter for Air China. Before joining One Air, it was in operation with Aerotranscargo.

Since the start of operations, One Air has also completed all-cargo flights ex China and Europe, flying charters on behalf of freight forwarding and charter broker customers. The extra aircraft is also expected to offer some further ad hoc capacity for global charter services in addition to the regular Hong Kong-London charter operations.

Paul Bennett, Chairman & CEO of One Air, and the airline's major shareholder, said: "We have enjoyed a positive start to commercial operations and strong interest from the international cargo market, which reinforces our view of the long-term potential for a British all-cargo airline. We are extremely proud to be operating the only Boeing 747 freighters on the UK register and to be offering the aircraft's outstanding cargo capacity. Our second aircraft has now entered service and increased our capabilities



further – and, subject to gaining the necessary regulatory approvals, we aim to add a third B747-400F in Q1 2024. We already have sufficient demand for a third aircraft, so our growth strategy at this stage is very much on track."

One Air, headquartered close to London Heathrow, has already built a team of over 100 airline operations, flight crew, and cargo professionals with previous experience with Cathay Pacific, Emirates Airline, CargoLogicAir, Norwegian Airlines, and other major carriers.



WestJet Cargo's 'Safe Air' product will soon expand across its network

Alberta, Canada: WestJet Cargo's dedicated product for safely transporting high-value goods, "Safe Air"—initially launched between Canada and the US, will soon rapidly expand across the airline's entire network.

Launched in January 2023, "Safe Air" offers reliability and security, apart from all the necessary discretion expected by customers in shipping every kind of valuable cargo.

WestJet Cargo has extended its product portfolio and premiered a comprehensive solution for the transport of high-value cargo, be it banknotes, jewelry, precious metals and stones, or other highly valuable goods.

"Our commitment to excellence extends to every area of our business, from network to operations to anticipating and meeting the needs of our customers," said Kirsten de Bruijn, Executive Vice-President, Cargo at WestJet. "The trust and market demand that our dedicated

cargo operations have garnered in just half a year, has also led to increasing demand for a dedicated valuables product. We have therefore been hard at work establishing our very own WestJet to both operationally safeguard those high-value shipments entrusted to us, and commercially ensure that we always deliver on our promises."

The product caters to a diverse range of sectors requiring secure and specialized handling of their valuable cargo, and was developed in close collaboration with freight forwarders focused on the secure cargo transportation of these high-value goods, from banking to luxury goods, high-end technology, pharmaceuticals, and confidential document transport.

"Our product has been meticulously designed with the utmost emphasis on security and efficiency. Every step of the valuable handling process has been painstakingly analyzed, potential risks identified and measures implemented to mitigate them," Nawal Mir, Product Manager at WestJet Cargo, explains.

Those dedicated security measures put in place to prevent tampering, pilferage, and unauthorized access, include third-party oversight, direct supervision, secure storage protocols, and the use of specialized security containers. Each container bears a unique serial number and is sealed with high-quality, individually numbered metal seals. All valuable cargo is escorted by security agents and transported separately to and from the aircraft.

"All hands on deck, all eyes on the ball, and absolutely no loopholes allowed. We've created a true 'Freight Knox' service at four of our stations and will roll it out to other destinations as soon as we are certain they are ready and capable of delivery," Nawal Mir emphasized.

The high-value service is initially available between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ), Calgary International Airport (YYC), Vancouver International Airport (YVR), and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). All other stations will be launched in priority of customer demand from next year.

Xeneta: 2024 will see a return of classic seasonality in air freight industry, but risks remain on the horizon

OSLO, Norway: The air freight market has been on a rollercoaster ride of late – but 2024 could see a return to 'classic seasonality', according to the Oslo-based Xeneta, the leading ocean and air freight rate benchmarking and intelligence platform.

The recently released Xeneta Air Freight Outlook 2024 highlights muted consumer spending as a key factor for the year ahead. Demand for air freight in 2023 remains down by -8% compared to pre-pandemic and is only predicted to grow by 1-2% in 2024. At the same time, supply is expected to grow by 2-4% in 2024.

"2024 could be an opportunity for shippers to catch their breath after the volatility of the past few years. The rapid rate decline which started earlier this year has calmed down in recent months. It seems to be the market has a new baseline, from which I expect classic seasonality patterns to emerge," said Niall van de Wouw, Xeneta Chief Airfreight Officer.

The industry saw the cost of transporting goods by air skyrocket during COVID-19 before plummeting back down again during 2023, albeit they are still 32% up on pre-pandemic levels.

"The key indicators are not great from a demand point of view. It's muted and there's a lot of uncertainty in the world. People and companies are a bit more conscious of how they are spending their money and we will likely not see demand pick up in any meaningful way in 2024. Yes, we will see a return of classic seasonality, but it will be muted seasonality," said Van de Wouw.

Xeneta data reveals an increasing trend for longer-term contracts, but Van de Wouw believes this presents a potentially perilous situation for freight forwarders in 2024.

The Xeneta Outlook 2024 also highlights the continued recovery of capacity putting downward pressure on rates as a key theme for 2024, along with environmental sustainability and improving schedule reliability in ocean freight shipping.

Has the rollercoaster come to a halt or are there more twists and turns yet to come?

Van de Wouw said: "At Xeneta I have learned how incredibly important it is for the air freight industry to look towards the ocean. 97% of global containerized goods are transported by the



Niall van de Wouw

ocean. Given the volumes involved, if the ocean industry messes things up, even to a small degree, then there is always money to be made in the air.

"Reliability in the ocean is improving, but it only takes one black swan event for the situation to change and rates to increase rapidly. No one has a crystal ball, but you only have to look at the drought in the Panama Canal, the threat of volcanic eruptions in Iceland and the conflict in the Middle East to understand how delicate and sensitive to world events the air freight industry is. If we do get a black swan event in 2024 then strap yourselves in for another ride on the rollercoaster."

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Manestream Logistics teams up with Amerijet International Airlines to offer first-class equine air travel

Netherlands/Miami: Manestream Logistics, a leading name in the equine transportation industry, has teamed up with Amerijet International Airlines aimed at strengthening its weekly services for horse shipments from Miami to Brussels and vice versa.

Manestream Logistics is known for its commitment to ensuring the comfort and well-being of horses during transit. Directed by a team of horse professionals, Manestream is committed to transporting horses from origin to destination safely, quickly, and efficiently using its modern fleet of specially designed horse trucks, horse caretakers, and first-class carriers.

"Amerijet's services bring an extensive network and expertise to the table. Manestream Logistics and Amerijet International Airlines share a common dedication to the welfare of animals in their care," said Lucas Porter, Founder and Director at Manestream.

Amerijet has established itself as a trusted air transportation option for horse owners and breeders. The company's state-of-the-art aircraft ensure the well-being of these majestic animals. Experienced handlers and a rigorous safety protocol are in place to provide the utmost care during every step of the journey.



"Recognizing that each equine shipment is unique, Amerijet offers customized solutions tailored to the specific needs of our clients. Whether it's a single horse or an entire stable of top-level equine athletes, Amerijet can accommodate a wide range of requirements. We are proud to be recognized as a premier carrier by Manestream Logistics" said Tim Spillane, Director of Cargo Operations at Amerijet International Inc.

With nearly 50 years of experience in the air cargo industry, Amerijet operates its dedicated fleet of freighters from its primary hub at the Miami International Airport to destinations throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, the Americas and Europe. The company provides approximately 425 million ATKs (Available Tonne Kilometers) of freighter capacity throughout its scheduled service region annually.

MRO Middle East and AIME to propel growth across regional airline supply chain

DUBAI, UAE: MRO Middle East 2024, the leading destination for the commercial aviation aftermarket in the region, and Aircraft Interiors Middle East (AIME) 2024, the largest cabin interiors gathering in the MEASA region, will take place as scheduled on 5 - 6 March 2024 at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC), Dubai.

The co-located events are uniting the entire airline supply chain as the aviation industry continues on its upward trajectory. The region has successfully established itself as a crucial hub for the industry, driving innovation and advancement, including in the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) and aircraft cabin interiors markets.

At Dubai Airshow 2023, flydubai announced plans for a purpose-built USD 190 million MRO facility in Dubai South by 2026 and Emirates signed a 10-year service agreement with Safran Aerosystems to cover repair and maintenance for Boeing 777 safety and cabin systems components, among other key deals. Meanwhile, Etihad Airways revealed the first of its three new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, boasting new interiors and exciting features such as best-in-class cabins with business suites with privacy doors and streamlined economy seats.

With an extended floorplan to cater to the higher demand seen for the upcoming edition, MRO Middle East and AIME 2024 will provide an opportunity to discover the latest products, services and

technology in the sector, with over 200 exhibitors representing the entire airline supply chain.

New networking features for 2024 include a dedicated Meeting Area for quieter 1-2-1 meetings – away from the hustle and bustle of the networking lounge – as well as a closing Networking Reception on 6 March, for all attendees and exhibitors to continue connecting in a more relaxed setting once the official business has finished.

Organizers said the popular Go Live! Theater will also return, welcoming more than 30 global industry experts to provide critical learning opportunities through a series of presentations, panel discussions, and case studies. These will address key industry themes across both MRO and Aircraft Interiors topics throughout the two days.

Meanwhile, the Onboard Hub will be the place to discover cutting-edge solutions and innovations, focused on in-flight entertainment and passenger experience in line with industry trends.

Following the success of last year, which saw attendance from more than 100 regional and international airlines including Emirates, Oman Air, KLM and Saudia, even more airlines are expected to be present this year. Those attending will benefit from the Airline Buyers Programme and Airline Club Lounge, with unbeatable networking opportunities offering the chance to connect with key decision makers from a wide range of airline operators.



DP World and Union of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture & Professions join forces to transform Intra-Africa trade



Dubai, UAE; The Union of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture & Professions (UACCIAP) and DP World have formalized a groundbreaking partnership to reshape intra-Africa trade by addressing the key challenges faced by businesses and enhancing opportunities for collaboration.

With focus on overcoming the hurdles hindering intra-Africa trade, the partnership seeks to make trade within the continent more accessible, efficient, and cost-effective. Under the agreement, UACCIAP and DP World will provide African businesses with a robust platform for connecting, sharing business information, access to fairs and exhibitions, sectorial and general delegations and logistics support.

UACCIAP Chairman Ahmed El Wakil and DP World Group Chairman & CEO Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem signed the agreement in DP World's Jebel Ali Free Zone.

"We are dedicated to supporting the growth of African businesses and fostering trade within the continent. Poor road, rail, and maritime infrastructure add as much as 40% to the costs of goods traded among African

countries. At the same time, intra-African trade makes up just 13% of its total. This agreement will provide our members with a valuable platform to reach new markets and expand their operations," said Sulayem.

El Wakil added: "This partnership is a significant step towards promoting trade and investment between African countries. We have witnessed many African countries drive their economies towards higher growth and we are fully confident in our continent's offering to the world. We are delighted to partner with DP World, a global leader in logistics and e-commerce, to connect African businesses with new opportunities and markets."

The partnership sets the stage for:

- Collaboration to implement business promotion programs and initiatives, facilitating seamless trade operations for businesses across the continent.
- UACCIAP members will gain exclusive access to Dubuy.com, DP World's B2B e-marketplace with end-to-end supply chain solutions, which will connect African exporters with global buyers, expanding their market reach beyond the continent.
- DP World will provide support for marketing and shipping services, leveraging its robust logistics infrastructure to enhance the efficiency of trade operations for UACCIAP members.

Savoie acquires a major contract in KSA to support CJ Logistics and iHerb with world-class automation solutions

Dubai, UAE: Savoie was selected as the automation and technology partner to fully automate the e-commerce Global Distribution Center in KSA for iHerb, the leading global eCommerce retailer for health and wellness which has its base in Riyadh in the Middle East.

Savoie is a leading global warehouse automation integrator and software publisher in the Middle East. For the project, it partnered with CJ Logistics, a 3PL services company operating for iHerb, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to deliver world-class automation solutions for its e-commerce Global Distribution Center (GDC).

The strategic partnership is a significant development for Savoie in KSA, following its recent expansion into the region.

Under the terms of the partnership, Savoie will implement a fully automated fulfilment center, the first-of-its-kind in the region, which includes a X-PTS

Goods-To-Persons (GTP) shuttle system, Warehouse Execution Software (WES), Zone to Zone fast picking system and automated orders packing to process 15K orders per day. Savoie's flagship X-PTS shuttle technology will be central to the project, serving as the foundation for an effective and ergonomic Goods-To-Person solution. Savoie's high-end solution is seamlessly designed to reduce picking and packing time by utilizing Savoie's highly ergonomic GTP stations for prompt high-speed picking operations. In addition, Savoie has designed fully automated packing lines that are in charge of closing and labeling the prepared orders before automatically sorting them into the various shipping lanes. The latest agreement marks a significant milestone for all parties as they actively work towards

"We are proud to embark on this journey with CJ Logistics and iHerb to further explore the Saudi Arabian market with our tailored automated solutions. This partnership holds great significance as it demonstrates our dedication to advancing the supply chain and logistics industry. Our combined efforts are also focused on meeting the industry's expanding needs while advancing Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and the Health Sector Transformation Program. We thus look forward to making significant strides together and establishing new benchmarks for automated solutions in the region," Alain Kaddoum, Managing Director of Savoie Middle East.

The partnership is in line with the Health Sector Transformation Program, a part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which aims to restructure the healthcare industry into a comprehensive, efficient, and integrated system based on the wellness of people and the community at large.

Agility and 13 leading MENA companies pledge to drive change to achieve a net-zero future

Kuwait: Agility, a global supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, along with 13 leading MENA companies, affirmed their commitment to combating climate change as signatories to the World Economic Forum's joint communique on achieving a net-zero future for the Middle East.

The companies, members of the World Economic Forum's Leaders for a Sustainable Middle East and North Africa initiative, pledged to: 1) Drive their organizations to net zero; 2) Deliver near-term emission reductions, 3) Enable greener growth; 4) Build awareness and capability, especially among consumers and supply chain participants; 5) Collaborate with the public sector to create an enabling ecosystem.

"Representing 7% of MENA's current emissions, this coalition of top business leaders are going beyond pledges and are stepping up with concrete actions to reduce emissions and mobilize the ecosystem towards a net-zero future. This is not only about combating climate change, but about seizing the opportunity to drive a sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for the region," said Borge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum.

Agility has taken a group-wide approach in its sustainability efforts. All Agility group companies pursue ESG strategies tailored to their industry contexts. Menzies Aviation and Tristar, Agility's two largest subsidiaries, are responsible for the majority of Agility's overall emissions and have each established net-zero goals.

Agility Logistics Parks (ALP), another Agility subsidiary, is pioneering the use of sustainable materials and designs across the MENA region. ALP's warehousing complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the company's warehousing complex in Cote d'Ivoire earned the first EDGE Advanced Certifications ever awarded in MENA and West Africa, respectively. This certification, an IFC-backed standard, recognizes buildings that are at least 40% more energy-efficient than the market.

Agility was recently named the No. 3 sustainability leader in MENA's Transport & Logistics sector by Forbes as part of its Middle East Sustainability 100 list.

"Sustainability is a central focus for Agility, and we seek collaboration with



Tarek Sultan

partners who share our vision. Joining WEF's initiatives for climate change in the MENA region is a reflection of that commitment, and our on-ground sustainability efforts are a testament to our resolve. We believe collaboration like this is critical if the region is to cut emissions and reach net zero," said Tarek Sultan, Agility Vice Chairman.

The 14 signatories to the World Economic Forum's joint communique on achieving a net-zero future for the Middle East include: Agility (Kuwait); ACWA Power (Saudi Arabia); Crescent Petroleum (UAE); e& (United Arab Emirates); Emirates NBD (UAE); First Abu Dhabi Bank (UAE); Gulf International Bank (Bahrain); Investcorp (Bahrain); Majid Al Futtaim Holding (UAE); Siemens UAE & Middle East (UAE); Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA) (UAE); Lamar Holding (Bahrain); Oman Global Logistics Group (ASYAD) (Oman), and; Unilever Arabia (UAE).

Almajdouie Logistics is first in Saudi to obtain license to operate hydrogen trucks

Dammam, KSA: Almajdouie Logistics, a leading integrated supply chain provider in the Middle East, became the first logistics company in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to obtain an operational license for hydrogen trucks from the Saudi Transport General Authority (TGA).

The company, which has been operating for over 50 years, recently welcomed its first hydrogen truck which it says speaks about its commitment to environmental sustainability.

Its newly acquired hydrogen-powered truck boasts zero carbon emissions and a safety-focused design. And it can cover long distances exceeding 400 km.

"As part of our vision for a sustainable future, we are collaborating with Air Products Qudra Company to enhance the hydrogen transportation sector. Our focus includes infrastructure development and the establishment of refueling stations across the



Kingdom," Almajdouie Logistics said.

Almajdouie Logistics is part of the Almajdouie Group, one of the largest conglomerates in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Sheikh Ali Ibrahim Almajdouie established the Group in 1965 as a land transport company. Over the years, the business has flourished and now caters to a diverse range of sectors and industries.



Fueling a Greener Future:

DB Schenker Ignites Sustainable Transformation in Air Cargo

By Mohammed Irshad

Bjorn Eckbauer
SVP Global Operations & Procurement
Air Global Freight, DB Schenker

As the pandemic's grip on the world tightened, the aviation industry found itself in a freefall. Passenger flights were gone, the air cargo industry's belly-hold capacity vanished, and traditional models crumbled.

In this maelstrom, DB Schenker, a global leader in logistics solutions which is part of the German Deutsche Bahn Group, defied the odds with a boldness that not only ensured its survival but also propelled it to new heights.

From the ashes of the crisis, DB Schenker's adaptability rose like a light. In a mere year, it went from scrambling to fill capacity gaps to operating its own global freighter network, a fleet of iron wings stretching across continents with nearly 60 weekly flights.

This wasn't just reactive improvisation; it was a masterclass in calculated risks, strategic alliances with key airlines, and a laser focus on efficiency. While others clung to outdated models, DB Schenker embraced the new normal, forging a future where resilience and agility became the cornerstones of success.

In an exclusive interview with **Air Cargo Update**, Bjorn Eckbauer, Senior Vice President of Global Operations and Procurement, Air Global Freight, demystifies DB Schenker's sustained investment to air cargo. He reveals the strategic levers and transformative actions propelling DB Schenker towards a greener horizon, redefining what's possible in sustainable air cargo.

Freighter Network Evolution

DB Schenker's swift response to the initial challenges posed by the pandemic, where the depletion of belly-hold capacity and passenger flights prompted the establishment of its own freighter network. From one year initially intended, the program evolved into a global operation with nearly 60 flights per week, connecting major hubs in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

"We embarked on long-term charter contracts to meet the evolving demands," Eckbauer reveals,

With roots dating back to 1872 in Germany, DB Schenker has been a beacon of hope and innovations for over 150 years. From horse-drawn carriages to freighter drones, the company leads the industry in developing state-of-the-art innovative and technology-driven solutions for facilitating global trade. Today, the company employs more than 72,000 staff spread across about 2,000 locations in 140 countries with annual revenues of over EUR 16.4 billion.



highlighting the adaptability that became the hallmark of their operations.

"In those initial stages, the challenges were monumental. The absence of flights meant a depletion of lower deck capacity and passenger flights, which were traditionally relied upon. We had to establish our own freighter network swiftly, departing from conventional ACMI arrangements," explains Eckbauer.

This initiative, initially designed for a one-year duration, surpassed expectations as the pandemic persisted. "Ultimately, our operations expanded to nearly 60 flights per week on a global scale. Primarily concentrated in the Northern Hemisphere connecting the US, Europe, and China, we also established connections into the Southern Hemisphere," he shares, revealing the extensive scope of their adaptive measures.

Adapting to a New Normal

The narrative unfolds as DB Schenker recounts the transformative experiences and key learnings from the pandemic. The logistics giant shares insights into its shift away from traditional models, emphasizing adaptability and a strategic



focus on a limited number of carriers during challenging times.

"The unexpected resurgence of the market prompted another reconsideration of our strategy," Eckbauer remarks, illustrating the dynamic decision-making necessitated by the rapidly changing industry landscape.

Shedding light on the significant shifts in their operational approach, Eckbauer explains, "Historically, we operated with a vast array of carriers for both main and lower deck capacities. However, the disappearance of this model due to the profound impact of the pandemic necessitated a comprehensive reevaluation."

"Our approach involved relying on capacity agreements with various airlines, sometimes accounting for up to 80% of capacity, particularly on passenger airlines. With the disappearance of this model due to the profound impact of the pandemic, a comprehensive reevaluation was imperative," Eckbauer emphasizes, underscoring the necessity for strategic reassessment.

Market Dynamics and Revenue Strategies

Eckbauer addresses the complexities of fluctuating market rates, the challenges of predicting market recovery, and DB Schenker's strategies to maintain relationships with carriers amidst a shrinking market.

"Despite the overall market shrinkage of 11 to 13 percent from 2022 to 2023, we maintained relationships with carriers," he explains, shedding light on the resilience and strategic partnerships that sustain the company's operations.

"The emphasis on working closely with a more restricted set of partners aimed at fostering strength and resilience in our operations within the evolving market conditions," he adds.

Providing insight into the strategic rationale behind their approach while offering a detailed analysis of the nuanced market dynamics, Eckbauer continued, "It's essential to consider the substantial disparity in rate levels between 22 and 23, as the latter is significantly lower. The comparison becomes challenging due to the marked differences in markets between 21, 22, and 23, all of which operate in shrinking markets with declining rates."

"In analyzing the revenue for this year, it's essential to consider the substantial disparity in rate levels between 22 and 23, as the latter is significantly lower. The comparison becomes challenging due to the marked differences in markets between 21, 22, and 23, all of which operate in shrinking markets with declining rates. In the current scenario, carriers are less focused on revenue and instead prioritize assessing tonnage. The primary concern is whether they experience growth in tonnage by collaborating with us or not," he added.

Eckbauer further elaborates, "There's a slight uptick in the market in terms of rates, albeit not constituting a genuine peak season. However, making a direct comparison proves challenging due to the unique circumstances. We transitioned from exceptionally high rates during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which experienced a drastic decline last year in September and continued to drop significantly into 2023."

"Anticipating the trajectory, we'll maintain the current level until mid-December, encompassing this modest peak season or whatever designation we assign to it. Beyond that point, January poses a significant question mark, challenging to predict accurately," Eckbauer estimates.

Eckbauer offers a comprehensive overview of the industry's future trajectory, emphasizing, "Over the past three years, our predictions have yielded varying degrees of success across different markets. Examining the global economy, it appears doubtful that a resurgence will occur before the summer of the following year. No discernible signs indicate a swift recovery—automotive sectors are experiencing a downturn, and major high-tech entities report



diminished volumes. Post-Chinese New Year, a rapid ramp-up toward a normal market doesn't seem imminent; rather, it appears that such a transition will require a considerable amount of time."

Green Logistics and Sustainable Practices

DB Schenker's unwavering commitment to green logistics takes center stage in their significant efforts. Three years ago, the company pioneered this initiative with a groundbreaking collaboration with Lufthansa, introducing an exclusive flight operating between Frankfurt and PVG.

According to Eckbauer, "Our commitment to green logistics is a significant focus of our efforts. What sets this venture apart is the utilization of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) equivalent to the full consumption of the aircraft. In fact, we exceeded a 100% offset, going above and beyond in our efforts. To minimize emissions, we integrated this eco-friendly fuel into the Frankfurt fuel network. Although direct burning of this fuel by the aircraft is technically unfeasible, our approach effectively eliminated, to the greatest extent possible, the emissions associated with that particular flight."

This proactive measure showcases their commitment to offsetting carbon emissions and contributing to a sustainable future.

Customer Engagement Dynamics

Eckbauer discusses the dynamics of customer engagement in the journey toward sustainability. "It's a mixed scenario," he noted. "The majority of our clients have set clear carbon-neutral goals by either 2030 or 2035. While a significant number are actively investing in sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and are willing to bear the associated costs, there remains a sizable portion that hesitates due to the considerable expense involved."



Considering various factors such as routing, the additional cost typically ranges from EUR 150 to 160 per kilo—a substantial amount, especially for the cargo in question. In some instances, this cost even exceeds current rates for air freight. Despite these challenges, ongoing dialogue and a growing awareness of sustainable practices are marking positive developments.

Eckbauer notes, "We are witnessing a gradual shift with more clients, including smaller ones (clients with lower monthly volumes), expressing interest and making inquiries about incorporating SAF into their shipments. Since our initial venture, we've expanded our capabilities, and now, within our global network, every client has the option to offset CO2 emissions by choosing SAF for their shipments, marking a step forward in our sustainability efforts."

Operational Sustainability Initiatives

Beyond championing Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), DB Schenker actively explores diverse initiatives for environmental sustainability. The company is on the forefront of researching alternatives to foil in ULD (Unit Load Device) construction, aiming to minimize the ecological footprint. As stated by Eckbauer, "Our ongoing tests with eco-friendly alternatives underscore our commitment to creating positive environmental impacts. Simultaneously, we're in the process of phasing out traditional wooden bars in ULDs, opting for sustainable cardboard alternatives."

This commitment isn't confined to internal changes. Collaborative endeavors with airlines identify key areas for supply chain improvements. DB Schenker also extends its sustainability pledge to trucking companies, urging them to adopt environmentally friendly practices. Initiatives like harnessing solar power on warehouse roofs and transitioning to LED bulbs showcase the dedication.

Recognizing that sustainability necessitates collective efforts, DB Schenker and Eckbauer actively pursue diverse avenues beyond SAF.

"While SAF remains pivotal, our multi-pronged approach ensures ongoing enhancements to environmental practices, contributing to a greener future," Eckbauer emphasizes.

Strategic Vision and Industry Advice

When contemplating DB Schenker's journey toward carbon neutrality, specific goals become pivotal. As outlined by Eckbauer, "Having clear objectives is paramount in our sustainability journey. While comprehensive change takes time, we're making significant strides across various domains. In land freight, especially for inner-city logistics, the integration of electric vehicles is increasingly becoming a norm to mitigate our environmental impact. We adopt electric vehicle technology wherever feasible, even though its application in long-term line hauls is still evolving."

In addition to transforming the land freight landscape, DB Schenker addresses environmental concerns within its operations. Eckbauer explains, "We're actively phasing out traditional diesel or gas-run forklifts, replacing them with electric

alternatives. These strategic shifts align with our commitment to minimizing the carbon footprint and embracing sustainable practices. Our approach is systematic, recognizing that progress is achieved through targeted initiatives across various facets of our operations."

In anticipating forthcoming challenges in the air cargo industry, DB Schenker employs key strategies for the next six months. Eckbauer's perspective urges the industry to break free from stagnation, stating, "We've remained unchanged for far too long, lagging in adopting common standards. The air freight community must foster improvement and catch up with evolving standards in other industries that have rapidly embraced change over the last decade."

Expanding Horizons

Apart from DB Schenker's strategic expansion into promising regions like Saudi Arabia, the company also places a significant emphasis on strengthening its presence in Ethiopia in the African continent.

Eckbauer acknowledges, "While a recent deal in Ethiopia eluded us, we remain actively engaged in these markets. The developments in Saudi Arabia, especially, are noteworthy, poised to become a hub akin to Dubai in the next five years due to its ambitious plans and rapidly growing economy."

In regards to partnerships, Eckbauer confirmed its established setup in Saudi Arabia. Notably, recent regulatory changes allowing consolidated shipments instead of limiting arrangements to back-to-back present new opportunities.

"This regulatory shift, though promising, requires some fine-tuning. Ongoing efforts aim to navigate and optimize these changes, as they allow for deconsolidation within Saudi Arabia. We remain optimistic about leveraging these new possibilities for our operations in the region," Eckbauer concludes, encapsulating the forward-looking perspective that defines DB Schenker's approach to expanding its global footprint.

The experience of DB Schenker in air cargo is proof of its tenacity, flexibility, and perseverance to a more environmentally friendly future. Not only has it survived the storms, but it has come out stronger, changing the whole meaning of success in a changed environment. This story of creativity, smart alliances, and sustainability speaks not just of the here and now, but also of DB Schenker's long-lasting history of raising the bar.



The Evolving Role of Air Charter Services in Global Trade”

By R. Chandrakanth



In 2023, the cargo industry also faced severe challenges. The fall-out of the Russia-Ukraine conflict has been that Volga-Dnepr Airlines IL76 and An-124 fleets are not available in the EU, UK, or US markets due to the sanctions. Only 8 An-124 aircraft (seven from Ukraine and one from Maximus) are operational, but not fully. This certainly has hit capacities and also resulted in higher charter rates.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) in October had forecast that the volume of world merchandise trade would witness a 3.3% growth in 2024. But as we head to another year, this growth projection may not hold well as geopolitical tensions (protracted conflicts of Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas) are expected to have an adverse bearing on trade, particularly sea lanes.

Four container-shipping companies—the French shipping and logistics company CMA CGM; German shipping giant Hapag Lloyd; Danish shipping behemoth Maersk; and Switzerland-based Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) have suspended their services in the Red Sea as shipping flows are affected due to attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in a bid to force a ceasefire on Israel's attacks against Gaza.

Israel continues to bombard Gaza with bomb attacks and military assault as it pursues the Palestinian militant group, Hamas, which attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, resulting in the death of 1,200 Israelis and the kidnapping of about 250 people, including foreign workers from Thailand and the Philippines. As of press time, nearly 23,000 Palestinians have lost their lives from Israel's attacks and more than 58,000 have been injured.

Almost 10% of global trade sails through the Red Sea. The US has since created a multinational naval coalition force that will patrol the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden in response to the Houthi attacks. More than 20 nations have joined the coalition so far. And major shipping firms like Maersk announced they will resume operations on the route.



In 2023, the cargo industry also faced severe challenges. The fall-out of the Russia-Ukraine conflict has been that Volga-Dnepr Airlines IL76 and An-124 fleets are not available in the EU, UK, or US markets due to the sanctions. Only 8 An-124 aircraft (seven from Ukraine and one from Maximus) are operational, but not fully. This certainly has hit capacities and also resulted in higher charter rates.

Macro-economic headwinds

Nevertheless, there has been a slowing down of demand due to macro-economic headwinds and a slowdown in global trade, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) which states that overall cargo tonne-kilometres are expected to remain below in 2023, compared to the previous year and the growth forecast for 2024 is 4.5%.

Industry leaders at the recent executive summit of The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) pointed out weak demand, amidst rising capacities and lower rates, further accentuated by the impact of geopolitical tensions.

Going into 2024, air cargo demand could be flat. The Chief Cargo Officer of Turkish Airlines, Turhan Özen, while being optimistic about demand cautioned of geopolitical risks that could jeopardize demand. Similarly, Chief Cargo Officer of Brussels Airport Company, Geert Aerts, mentioned how the geopolitical situation in West Asia had pushed air cargo's recovery back by a year.

Capacities available

It is here that the air charter operators play a crucial role in directing cargo business. Says Dushyant Mulani, Chairman of the Freight Forwarders Association of India that the charter business has to be fully aware of the happenings around the world, particularly geopolitical to ensure seamless transshipments.

The sales teams of air charters should be able to provide solutions to trade-in eventualities such as the Red Sea. There are capacities and there are aircraft available.

He mentions that demand is only in some sectors such as e-commerce, automotive and electronics which gets addressed by air cargo as speed of delivery is the criterion. It is for the air charter operators to look at other sectors, create demand, and service them. They are to be the beacons in the air cargo supply chain, even as the global air charter services market (all inclusive) is poised to touch nearly \$30 billion by end-2023, with a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.3% and \$36.11 billion in 2027 with a CAGR of 5.1%.

North America continues to dominate charter market

There has been an increasing demand for cargo charters as they offer more destinations, and are reliable, secure, fast, and flexible. As per IATA, Global air cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs) registered the third consecutive year-on-year (YoY) growth in October by 3.8%.

Compared to the pre-pandemic level, industry CTKs were 2.4% lower. Air cargo capacity, measured by available cargo tonne-kilometres (ACTKs), increased by 13.1% YoY in October, owing to the continued strong return of international passenger belly capacity, thus industry ACTKs surpassed 2019 levels by 2.8%. The demand for air cargo is a significant driver pushing the air charter services market growth with North America being a dominating region, followed by Asia-Pacific.

The Chief Executive of Air Charter Association, an industry body in the United Kingdom, Glenn Hogben, has attributed the growth to the higher demand in sectors such as e-commerce, electronics, oil and gas, and automotive, with special mention of growing routes being Asia and Europe.

For the air charter market to grow, product innovation is key and the charter operators have to think on their feet. One example of product innovation is the ACS Critical Time from the stables of the UK-based company Air Charter Services (ACS) which offers a comprehensive package of door-to-door service, incorporating integrated trucking solutions, on-demand cargo airplane charters, and next-flight-out alternatives.



Hogben says that the charter market is fairly disjointed and the Association is trying to bring cohesion and advises its members on looking at technologies to enhance charter efficiencies, while not neglecting traditional personal service.

Air charter's many benefits

As mentioned earlier, air charter operators should have real-time access to aircraft movements worldwide, have an exhaustive database and have quick and reliable communication systems. One of the best examples of a charter company is Chapman Freeborn, an industry leader, which analyses routes, payloads, and timescale, proposing the most suitable cargo aircraft for freight forwarders. They also organize part-charters, backloads, and other commercially innovative solutions for ad hoc, peak-season, and project cargo. Added to that is the company's leverage of volume buying power and airline relationships, ensuring competitive pricing.

Chapman Freeborn lists the many benefits of air charter and they include reliability; speed (advantageous for time-sensitive cargo such as perishable goods, urgent medical supplies, or emergency relief aid); flexibility (shippers can choose the departure and arrival times, routing and airports of their choice); more destinations (including remote locations, served and unserved regions); varying load capacities; security (less risk of theft, damage or loss, compared to flights that contain cargo from various vendors); tracking (charter providers offer web-based aircraft tracking); less warehousing (quicker transport times means less

need for warehousing); less packaging (fewer packaging materials as cargo shipped in lightweight materials, compared to sea freight); cost-effectiveness; and viability (in times of crisis, such as the disruption in the Red Sea air charter is a viable option for cargo transportation).

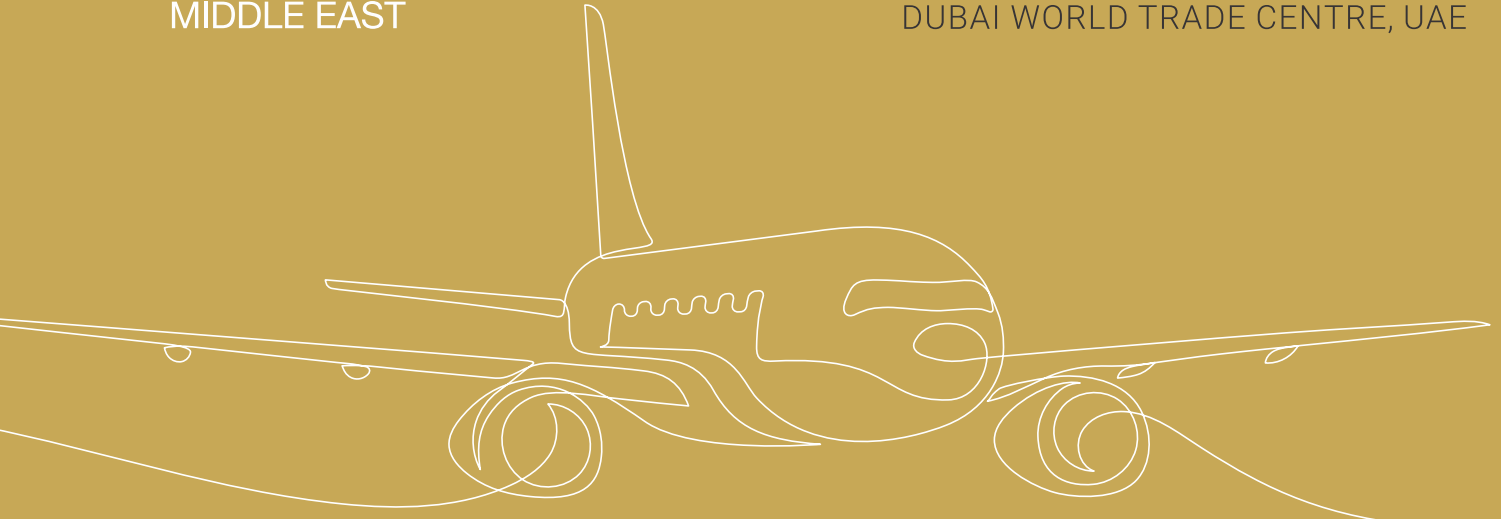
2024 decent projections of cargo volumes

The air cargo sector is poised to maintain an upward trajectory, though there are geopolitical issues that need to be kept on the radar. The 2024 projections, as per IATA, are an increase of cargo volumes by 4-5% in comparison to 2023; enhanced capacities as airlines are back to normal; digital adoption (blockchain and artificial intelligence integration) improving efficiencies; enhanced security; and move towards sustainability.

The slowdown in general air freight demand has increased charter capacity, causing a marked decrease in charter prices; although high fuel prices are preventing a return to pre-COVID rate levels.

Even as the sector grapples with fluctuations in fuel prices and geopolitical instability, the aviation sector is becoming innovative, trying to leverage AI enhancements and other technologies to drive efficiencies in charter operations and that is going to pay dividends over time.

In conclusion, air charter operators need to traverse 2024 with utmost care as rising geopolitical tensions in different parts of the world can negate growth, slow down e-commerce expansion, and global trade. Despite the flux of global trade, air cargo will remain an indispensable link, continually evolving, and innovating to address the demands of economies and it is for the charter operators to guide the shippers.



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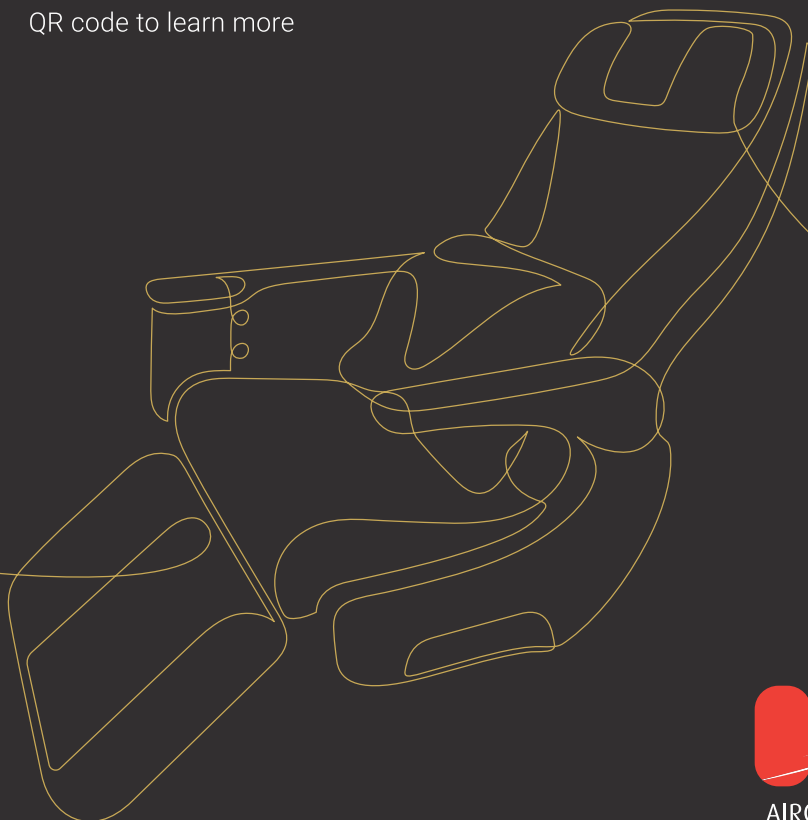
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From Finger tips to Doorstep:

How e-Commerce Takes Flight with Air Freight



Imagine ordering a high-value gadget, a time-sensitive gift, or even fresh flowers online. Air freight becomes the unsung hero in ensuring these items reach you swiftly and intact.

By Mohammed Irshad

Step into the dynamic world of e-commerce, where just clicking a button can bring products from across the globe to your doorstep. This digital shopping revolution has not only changed the way we shop but has also given new engines for growth to the air freight industry, turning it into a crucial player in the delivery game.

The e-Commerce and Air Freight Symbiosis: Imagine ordering a high-value gadget, a time-sensitive gift, or even fresh flowers online. Air freight becomes the unsung hero in ensuring these items reach you swiftly and intact.

According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA)'s latest air cargo data from 2023, e-commerce accounted for 20% of global air cargo volume, from only 15% in 2019. Fast forward through the COVID-19 pandemic, and the numbers have soared to record high, showcasing the pivotal role air freight plays in the e-commerce world.

In this journey through the skies, we encounter trends that propel the air freight industry into new directions.

Need for Speed and Convenience: E-commerce customers now expect nothing short of magic when it comes to the delivery of their orders. Speed and convenience have become the name of the game, with demands for same-day or 72-hour international shipping. This puts immense pressure on the air freight industry to not only speed up their operations but also compete with alternative transportation modes.

Embracing the Digital Age: In a world where information is power, e-commerce requires a seamless flow of data and transparency from the point of order to delivery. This necessity has nudged the air freight industry to invest in digital technologies for real-time tracking, communication, and collaboration among all stakeholders. Digital transformation isn't just a luxury; it's a lifeline to operational efficiency, customer satisfaction, and informed decision-making.

Greening the Skies: As awareness about environmental impact grows, e-commerce customers are leaning towards greener options. This poses a challenge for the air freight industry, caught between the need for speed and the call for sustainability. Finding the balance involves adopting eco-friendly practices such as fuel-efficient aircraft, optimized routes, and exploring alternative fuels. While these trends paint a promising picture, challenges loom on the horizon.

The Digital Dilemma: The air freight industry finds itself at a crossroads where the lack of digitization hampers its ability to keep pace with e-commerce expectations. Manual and paper-based processes create inefficiencies, errors, and delays. The industry needs to shed its analog skin and embrace digital solutions that streamline operations and enhance customer service.



According to Fredericks, "Digital tools are instrumental in elevating visibility, ensuring timely and reliable transportation solutions for online businesses." The discussion unfolds with Fredericks shedding light on real-time tracking, where technology enables airlines and cargo operators to provide accurate information to customers.

The Price of the Skies: Air freight, though swift, comes at a cost. Factors like fuel expenses, airport fees, security charges, and customs duties make it one of the priciest modes of transportation. This high cost could deter online retailers and consumers from choosing air freight. The industry must brainstorm ways to cut costs, perhaps by optimizing capacity, negotiating better rates, or offering value-added services.

Capacity Crunch: A surge in demand for e-commerce goods and a limited fleet of aircraft create a capacity shortage. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation with canceled or reduced passenger flights, leaving less cargo space. To meet the growing demand, the industry must explore options like dedicated cargo aircraft, chartering flights, or collaborating with other modes of transportation.

Technological Innovations:

Jonathan Fredericks, Managing Director at ECS Group's Mail & More, emphasizes the pivotal role of technology solutions in achieving seamless integration between e-commerce platforms and air cargo companies. He stresses the need for precise, technical, and detailed logistics chains.



According to Fredericks, "Digital tools are instrumental in elevating visibility, ensuring timely and reliable transportation solutions for online businesses." The discussion unfolds with Fredericks shedding light on real-time tracking, where technology enables airlines and cargo operators to provide accurate information to customers.

He outlines the post-COVID digital transformation in parcel



Yossi Shoukroun

movement, incorporating technologies like EDI messaging, parcel-level tracking, and tracing, with a growing shift towards AI for efficiency.

Fredericks extends the conversation to the transformative impact of technological advancements, particularly automated cargo handling systems, envisioning a future where airlines evaluate handling agents based on their digitalization and infrastructure capacity.

"The focus is on speed, cost efficiency, reliability, and universality," he emphasizes.

Addressing the increasing reliance on technology, Fredericks delves into how air cargo companies address cybersecurity challenges. ECS Group prioritizes cybersecurity through a multi-faceted strategy aligned with GDPR guidelines, recognizing the paramount importance of data privacy.

Charter Services and Collaboration:

Yossi Shoukroun, the CEO of the Challenge Group, introduces a fresh perspective, exploring how charter services can meet the specific needs of e-commerce clients. He highlights the comprehensive charter programs involving long-term agreements with specific delivery commitments.

In his words, "Stability is a paramount consideration, and our approach is tailored to meet this imperative, aligning operational plans with the delivery promises of e-commerce entities."

Shoukroun shares success stories, notably a collaboration with Cainiao, Alibaba's

logistics arm. Challenge Group's operations were initiated with four weekly flights and swiftly scaled to a daily schedule, serving key markets in Israel and Europe.

He underlines the evolving dynamics of e-commerce, emphasizing a shift from China to Global (C2G) to a Global to Global (G2G) business model. In addressing the relationship between charter services and commercial airlines, Shoukroun emphasizes the foundational role of freighter operators in providing continuous and reliable capacity for substantial e-commerce volumes.

The complementarity extends to utilizing belly capacity as both a buffer and for less urgent destinations or products. Shoukroun navigates through the regulatory challenges faced by charter services, focusing on the transportation of lithium batteries. With a multi-faceted strategy and three Air Operator Certificates (AOC), Challenge Group is well-equipped to meet these challenges.

The discussion shifts to investments in infrastructure and technology, where integration with clients streamlines customs clearance processes.

E-commerce's Influence on Global Trade Dynamics: To truly grasp the impact of e-commerce on the air freight industry, it's essential to delve into its broader influence on global trade dynamics.

Market Expansion and Access: E-commerce opens up new markets for businesses, allowing them to reach customers globally. This expansion necessitates an efficient and reliable logistics network, with air freight playing a pivotal role in connecting sellers and buyers across continents.

Changing Consumer Behavior: The shift to online shopping has altered consumer behavior, with expectations of quick and secure deliveries. This shift places increased demands on air freight to provide not just speed but also reliability and transparency in the delivery process.

Customs and Regulatory Challenges: Global trade brings with it diverse customs regulations and trade barriers. The air freight industry must navigate through this complex web of regulations to ensure seamless cross-border movement of goods, further highlighting the need for robust digital solutions.

Future Horizons and Collaborative Synergies: As we peer into the future of e-commerce and air freight, collaborative synergies emerge as a key theme. The integration of technology, regulatory compliance, and sustainable practices is vital for the continued success of this dynamic alliance.

Blockchain and Supply Chain Transparency: Blockchain technology holds immense potential in enhancing supply chain transparency. E-commerce companies and air freight operators can leverage blockchain for real-time tracking, authentication, and secure sharing of information, addressing concerns related to fraud and counterfeit goods.

Sustainability Initiatives: Meeting the dual challenge of speed and sustainability requires innovative approaches. The industry can explore biofuels, electric cargo planes, and other eco-friendly solutions. Collaborative efforts between e-commerce giants and air freight companies can drive investments in sustainable technologies.

Regulatory Frameworks and Standardization: The establishment of global regulatory frameworks and standardization in the air freight industry is critical. This can streamline processes, reduce complexities, and ensure a level playing field for all stakeholders. E-commerce players and air freight companies should actively engage in shaping these frameworks to meet the evolving needs of the industry.

Think of it as a high-altitude game of chess. Industry experts like Fredericks and Shoukroun see technology as the kingpin, orchestrating a seamless flow of goods from click to doorstep. Collaboration is the other key piece, forging alliances between e-commerce giants and air freight veterans. Together, they can build a future where drones are pawns zipping through urban grids, and sustainable fuel powers transcontinental cargo planes like eco-conscious knights.

This isn't just about keeping up; it's about dominating the skylines of global trade. Imagine a world where lightning-fast deliveries and carbon-neutral footprints are the new standard. That's the future air freight and e-commerce are building together, brick by digital brick, shipment by eco-friendly flight.

So, buckle up, fasten your innovative seatbelts, and prepare to witness a sky-high revolution in how goods move around the world.

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The Integration of AI and Robotics in Operations

By Ayesha Rashid

“

For AI and robotics to work and add value, digitalization of physical workflows is imperative. Most stakeholders in the air cargo world are still focussing on the digitalization of paper flows, with only a select few actively pursuing the digitalization of physical workflows. In the case of AI and robotics in the air cargo industry specifically, data on the physical cargo that flows through the network is crucial. Speedcargo Technologies being one of the very few companies, if not the only one, digitizing physical cargo.”

– Dr. Suraj Nair

Founder and Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Speedcargo.

Around the world, the air cargo industry is increasingly turning to disruptive technologies like Artificial Intelligence or AI, and robotics, to revolutionize their operations.

These advanced technologies are significantly impacting the industry by automating processes, reducing human error, and increasing overall efficiency. Air cargo carriers

and other players in the supply chain improve their overall operational efficiency, reduce labor costs, and enhance cargo tracking and monitoring capabilities when incorporating these things into their systems.

However, the reliance on AI and robotics also raises concerns about job displacement and potential security risks, making it essential for the industry to carefully navigate the adoption of these technologies.

Air Cargo Update had an insightful conversation with Dr. Suraj Nair, the Founder and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Speedcargo.

Dr. Nair shed light on the transformative applications of AI and Robotics in the air cargo industry, outlining the vast possibilities that are reshaping the industry's operational landscape.

Key Technologies Driving AI and Robotics

The advancements in AI and robotics are driven by key technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and sensor technology. Machine learning allows machines to learn from data and improve their performance without being explicitly programmed.

Natural language processing enables machines to understand and interpret human language, facilitating communication between humans and machines.

Computer vision empowers machines to visually perceive and interpret their surroundings, while sensor technology allows robots to interact with the physical world through touch, motion, and environmental sensors.

“Automation solutions that work with standardized boxes exist, but they do not work for air cargo operations. Speedcargo Technologies’ automation solution is the only one currently that can work in the complex air cargo environment.

“As cargo comes in all sizes, shapes and weights, we refer to it as a high-mix, high-volume environment. It is also a high payload environment, where you may have a shipment that is 10 kilos or up to two tons.

“When you have that range to handle, it becomes difficult to automate that process with a standardized mechanism. In such an environment, automation needs to address last-cm motion planning and placement position. This is a complex scenario, which Speedcargo Technologies has solved using our proprietary technology.”

According to Dr. Nair, currently, apart from ASRS and conveyor systems, Speedcargo is the only company to have shown a working proof of concept along with SATS in Singapore.

Predictive Analytics for Demand Forecasting.

By analyzing historical data and current air cargo market trends, AI algorithms can accurately predict future demand for air cargo services. This allows air cargo companies to optimize their operations, ensuring that they have the right resources in place to meet demand while minimizing excess capacity.

AI can also help in identifying patterns and trends that may not be immediately apparent



to human analysts, enabling more accurate demand forecasting.

With AI-powered predictive analytics, air cargo companies can make better-informed decisions about capacity planning, pricing, and resource allocation, ultimately leading to improved efficiency and profitability.

“Machine learning can be very effective in predictive maintenance and is being used in many industries successfully. However, these industries already have highly digitalized workflows. Air cargo has a long way to go, with Speedcargo Technologies being one of the very few companies digitalizing physical workflows.”

Speedcargo’s solutions for optimization comply with all IATA regulations, including DG segregations and SHCs, as well as any airline regulations or business priorities they might have, according to Dr. Nair.

Role of Robotics in Air Cargo Handling

The air cargo industry is undergoing a profound transformation with the increasing integration of robotic technology.

A pivotal application of robotics in cargo lies in the development of autonomous vehicles. These vehicles leverage sensors, cameras, and advanced technologies to perceive their environment and make decisions autonomously, eliminating the need for human intervention.

The potential benefits are extensive, ranging from accident reduction and improved traffic flow to heightened overall efficiency within the transportation system.

Moreover, autonomous vehicles contribute to environmental sustainability by curbing fuel consumption and emissions.

Drones represent another frontier where robotics is reshaping transportation. Unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, find applications in delivering goods and medical supplies to remote areas, inspecting infrastructure, and monitoring traffic.

The use of drones promises significant cost reductions, improved safety, and enhanced efficiency, particularly in regions where conventional transportation faces limitations.

As automation becomes more prevalent, the air cargo sector stands to benefit from increased operational precision and safety measures.

The valuable penetration of drones is quite low in the airfreight industry, with drones being limited to inventory checks in warehouses, according to Dr. Nair.

Integration Challenges

Keeping in mind that integrating AI and robotics into the air cargo industry comes with its own set of challenges.



One of the main concerns is compatibility with existing systems. The industry relies heavily on established processes and infrastructure, and any new technology must seamlessly integrate with these systems.

Compatibility issues can arise when new technologies are not able to interface with legacy systems or when there are gaps in data sharing and communication. To avoid disruptions, companies must carefully plan and execute the integration of AI and robotics, ensuring that all systems work in harmony.

“For AI and robotics to work and add value, digitalization of physical workflows is imperative. Most stakeholders in the air cargo world are still focussing on the digitalization of paper flows, with only a select few actively pursuing the digitalization of physical workflows. In the case of AI and robotics in the air cargo industry specifically, data on the physical cargo that flows through the network is crucial. Speedcargo Technologies being one of the very few companies, if not the only one, digitizing physical cargo.”

The introduction of AI and robotics in the air cargo industry also raises questions about safety, privacy, and compliance with existing regulations.

There are strict guidelines and standards in place to ensure the safe and secure transport of goods, and any new technologies must adhere to these regulations.

Additionally, concerns about potential cybersecurity threats and the need to protect sensitive data further complicate the integration process. Companies must prioritize compliance and security measures to mitigate the risk of any potential breaches or mishaps.

“Automated systems require precise digital information on the cargo, as well as optimized configurations for maximum efficiency. Digitization and optimization of operations, are, therefore, crucial for any sort of AI or robotics to perform in the future.

“While brownfield developments would require robots to be integrated with existing workflows when it comes to greenfield developments, stakeholders should not miss the opportunity to evolve and transform their

operations which are currently designed for humans, to highly automated operations.

“From our point of view, successful deployment of practical robotics can minimize manpower requirements, which in turn minimizes risks with human handling—like errors and mishandling—and improves security in sensitive zones such as airports.”

Impact on Employment and Skill Requirements

While these technologies have the potential to create new job opportunities in fields such as software development and maintenance, they also can replace certain roles traditionally performed by humans.

As a result, the industry will need to focus on retraining and upskilling workers to ensure they are equipped to work alongside these advanced technologies.

Companies will also need to consider the ethical and social implications of potential job displacement and strive to mitigate any negative impacts on the workforce.

“The industry has been facing a shrinking trained workforce with a dwindling number of experienced cargo handlers and ongoing retirements. New entrants to the workforce are less willing to do labor-intensive jobs, which involve both mundane tasks and hazardous heavy lifting.

“The lack of staff causes disruptions and delays in air cargo operations, and needs to be addressed by creating an environment where the next generation will want to stay and grow. The younger generation prefer managing digital operations and automated systems. IATA has rightly prescribed 'digitization' in the industry to be one of the key ways to curb the labor crunch.”

The Future of AI and Robotics in Air Cargo

As technology continues to advance, the cargo industry will likely see an increase in the use of AI-powered drones for delivery and robotics for loading and unloading cargo. While there may be some initial concerns surrounding job displacement, they can ultimately lead to significant cost savings and increased productivity for companies within the industry.

Overall, the integration of AI and robotics in the air cargo industry has the potential to streamline processes, reduce operational costs, and improve the overall customer experience.

As companies continue to invest in and adopt these technologies, they can expect to see a notable transformation in how air cargo is managed and delivered in the future.

“The launch of ChatGPT and its successors have created several opportunities that could be explored with regard to NLP and customer service. However, adopting these solutions has proven to be very expensive at an enterprise level, given the large cloud computation the adopter must incur. In airfreight, this becomes a big challenge given that it is an extremely low-margin industry.”

Dr. Nair further emphasizes that the adoption of automation is not a matter of 'if', but a matter of 'when'. The constraints felt by the industry are very real: space is limited, people are aging, and infrastructures need to be upgraded. If companies want to survive and be profitable then adoption of automation is inevitable.

According to him, sustainability has also rightly been at the forefront of efforts in the industry. Industrial robots are highly energy-efficient machines, and they can work 24x7, 365 days for up to 12 years without requiring major maintenance.

State-of-the-art robotics can also have increased throughput in limited space and create a highly connected workflow that is efficient, sustainable, and cost-efficient. The benefits, ROI, and savings from automation can be seen in other industries that have adopted it early on.

“The journey towards automation starts from digitizing your workflows. There are ample companies in the industry today that offer solutions to digitalize operations in different areas of your workflow. Organizations can see digitization as a low-hanging fruit that they can start enjoying benefits from, quickly,” Dr Nair concludes.



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Al Futtaim Logistics unveil plan for future growth

Interview By Poonam Chawla | Written By Gemma Q. Casas

"Driven by a customer-centric and solutions-oriented approach, our 24/7 AOG operations with 300+ stations, combined with our end-to-end solutions, including storage and distribution hubs within the UAE, make us the go-to partner for aerospace companies of any size."

-Dr. Raman Kumar, Managing Director, Al-Futtaim Logistics



“With 1.2 million square meters of storage and operational centers located in major air and sea hubs in the UAE, our service capabilities extend to global freight forwarding, local services, warehousing, contract logistics, and cross-border transportation. We provide fast and reliable integrated 3PL solutions to diverse industries, including the aerospace industry,”

– Dr. Raman Kumar

Managing Director of Al-Futtaim Logistics

In the rapidly growing logistics industry in today's interconnected digital world, Al Futtaim Logistics stands out for its fast and innovative supply chain and logistics services and solutions for different industries.

Established in the 1980s in the United Arab Emirates, Al Futtaim Logistics is today a leading provider of integrated logistics services not only in the country but the entire Middle East with its global network of strategic partners in more than 150 countries.

Just before 2023 ended, Al Futtaim Logistics expanded its services with the launch of its Aerospace Logistics Division, specifically tailored to meet the industry's growing demand to transport parts for aircraft and spacecraft worldwide.

The Aerospace Logistics Division's launch was held at the mega-aviation event, Dubai Airshow 2023. Prior, a soft launch was made at the MRO-AIME Middle East 2023.

Dubai, the UAE's business hub, is the 7th largest importer of parts for aircraft and spacecraft in the world. And over the next 20 years, Al Futtaim said the Middle East is predicted to see 3.2% continued growth in the MRO services market, setting the region for soaring demand for efficient and rapid aerospace logistics.

“As part of a UAE-based conglomerate with a global network, we are uniquely positioned to deliver unmatched service quality and flexibility to meet the needs of our customers in this burgeoning sector,” said Dr. Raman Kumar, Managing Director of Al-Futtaim Logistics.

“Driven by a customer-centric and solutions-oriented approach, our 24/7 Aircraft on



Ground (AOG) operations with more than 300 stations, combined with our end-to-end solutions, including storage and distribution hubs within the UAE, make us the go-to partner for aerospace companies of any size," he continued.

Consider these facts: An aircraft that is stalled on the ground due to technical issues can cost an airline up to US\$150,000 an hour in losses, which is why prompt and time-critical ground solutions are needed to ensure seamless continuity of operations.

Diverse Clientele in the Aerospace Industry

Dr. Kumar explains Al-Futtaim's Aerospace Logistics Division caters to a diverse clientele, including Airlines, Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) operators, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Parts Suppliers, and Asset Leasing Companies.

The division provides a comprehensive range of solutions that includes airside deliveries at major UAE airports, multiple carrier options, Technician Onboard Charters (TOC), and 24/7 centralized aerospace operations with global coverage, covering all time zones.

"Airside delivery," Dr. Kumar said, "is one of the big requirements for aerospace logistics," which is why, he added, the company is moving forward in the air freight logistics field as a matter of a growth plan

The company also provides storage solutions compliant with the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) and ASA-100 standards.

"With 1.2 million square meters of storage and operational centers located in major air and sea hubs in the UAE, our service capabilities extend to global freight forwarding, local services, warehousing, contract logistics, and cross-border transportation. We provide fast and reliable integrated 3PL solutions to diverse industries, including the aerospace industry," Dr. Kumar noted.

Al Futtaim Logistics is geared toward further global expansion. First to Egypt, then to Hong Kong and the rest of East Asia in the next few years. Its Aerospace Division has expertise in engine movements, parts movements, surface transportation, service cargo, routine cargo, airside deliveries, and time-critical solutions to suit urgent customer needs.

Trained associates and special security permits allow Al Futtaim's Aerospace Logistics to execute smooth airside deliveries

GLOBAL AEROSPACE TRADE

The UAE's position as a top 10 importer of aircraft parts and its world-class logistics infrastructure make it an attractive logistics hub for the global Aerospace industry

Largest exporters of aerospace trade as a share of market total in 2021



for AOGs. The services comprise a full range of integrated third-party solutions (3PL) to meet all the needs of aerospace MRO and other clientele.

Moreover, Al-Futtaim's Aerospace Logistics assures time-critical air freight solutions with reliable transit times, and cost-saving opportunities integrating consolidations and multimodal transportation. Time-critical expertise extends to the provision of chartered flights, AOGs, out-of-gauge, hazardous cargo, exhibition shipments, and transport insurance.

Al-Futtaim Logistics is an authorized economic operator by the UAE Federal Customs Authority and Dubai Customs compliant with the specifications of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

In 2023, the company was recognized for its innovative approach to aerospace logistics, receiving the Emerging Aerospace Logistics Company Award at the Arabian Cargo Awards 2023.

The company is part of Al Futtaim Group, a business conglomerate established in the 1930s, which today is one of the most diversified and progressive, privately held regional businesses headquartered in Dubai, structured into different operating divisions, including automotive, financial services, real estate, retail, and health.

Al-Futtaim Group employs more than 33,000 employees across more than 20 countries in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. It has partnerships with over 200 of the world's most admired and innovative brands.

Growing Aerospace Industry

Since the pandemic's lifting, the Middle East aviation industry has seen record growth in passenger traffic, thus, necessitated demand for more supplies and upkeep on aircraft and facilities it use.

In the UAE alone, the country's four major airlines—Emirates, Etihad, flydubai and Air Arabia—have more than 480 aircraft in operation. Across the Middle East, the total fleet size tops 1,211 in 2022. By 2032, it is projected to more than double to 2,382.

With that many planes in operation in the region, the UAE has successfully positioned itself as a top 10 importer of aircraft parts with world-class logistics infrastructure. The country's strategic location between the East and the West makes it an ideal logistics hub for the global aerospace industry.



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Turkish Airlines expands fleet with additional order of 220 Airbus aircraft

Toulouse, France: Türkiye's national carrier, Turkish Airlines, is expanding its fleet with an additional order of 220 Airbus' best-selling A321 and the widebody aircraft A350, bringing to 504 its total order for Airbus planes.

The airline ordered 150 A321 and 70 A350 aircraft — (50 A350-900s, 15 A350-1000s and 5 A350F freighters). This follows two orders from the airline for 10 A350-900s in September and four A350-900s in July 2023. Of Turkish Airlines' total orderbook for Airbus aircraft 504, 212 have already been delivered.

Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bolat, commented: "This landmark order is more than an expansion; it's a testament to our dedication to innovation, operational excellence, and a sustainable future. The addition of these advanced Airbus aircraft to our fleet will not only enhance our operational capabilities but also significantly contribute to our environmental goals. This investment is a crucial milestone in the further evolution of Türkiye's aviation industry. By modernizing our fleet with more efficient and environmentally friendly aircraft, we are reinforcing our leading position in global aviation and contributing to the nation's prominence as an aviation hub."

Christian Scherer, Airbus Chief Commercial Officer and Head of International, Turkish Airlines aims to use its new fleet to shape its future and sustainable expansion as the plane models are known for their efficiency, with more range, less fuel, noise and emissions and best cabin in class.

"The opening into the A350-1000 and the A350F highlights the cross-model value of the A350 family and reinforces our long-lasting partnership with Turkish Airlines and Türkiye's aviation sector. We are proud to accompany Türkiye's connection to the world with our state-of-the-art aircraft," said Scherer.

The A321neo is the largest aircraft in Airbus' A320neo Family, offering unparalleled range and performance. By incorporating new generation engines and Sharklets, the A321neo brings a 50% noise reduction and more than 20% fuel savings and CO₂ reduction compared to previous generation single-aisle aircraft. Having the widest single-aisle cabin in the sky, the aircraft is the perfect contender for maximizing comfort.



Turkish Airlines welcomes over 77 million passengers from January to November 2023



Meanwhile, in Istanbul, Turkish Airlines announced it handled over 6 million passengers in November bringing to 77.3 million its passenger traffic from January to November 2023. The figure represents an increase of 16.6 percent compared to the same period in 2022.

Its load factor has increased to 80.4 percent for the period locally and 79.9 percent internationally. In November, the airline's cargo and mail went from 138.3 thousand tons to 153.5 thousand tons, equating to an increase of 11 percent.

"We're delighted to see a steady increase in our traffic figures year on year. These numbers are a testament to the hard work our team at Turkish Airlines has been putting in behind the scenes to

ensure all operations run smoothly and keep improving. We look forward to continuously enhancing customers' experiences with Turkish Airlines, being a leading airline of choice for millions of passengers around the world," said Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bolat.

By the end of November 2023, Turkish Airlines' fleet totaled 437. The airline flies to 345 destinations in 192 countries apart from serving 53 destinations across Türkiye.



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Front (seated from left): Lu Jun, Managing Director of Commercial Committee, China Eastern Airlines; Jurriaan Stelder, Vice President of Alliances, Aeropolitical and Industry Affairs, Etihad Airways. Back (from left): Wan Qingchao, Executive Vice President, China Eastern Airlines; Li Yangmin, President of China Eastern Airlines; Antonoaldo Neves, Chief Executive Officer, Etihad Airways; Arik De, Chief Revenue and Commercial Officer, Etihad Airways. **Image Credit: Etihad Airways**

Shanghai, China: Etihad Airways and China Eastern Airlines recently signed a Strategic Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance commercial and operational ties, signaling their intent to further strengthen their decade-old partnership.

Building upon their successful existing partnership, the airlines plan to implement a broad collaboration including an expanded codeshare, reciprocal loyalty programs, cargo transport, maintenance, repair and overhaul, ground handling, catering, lounge access, staff training, and several sustainability initiatives. This comprehensive approach will improve efficiencies while maintaining world-renowned hospitality.

The MoU should facilitate China Eastern's ambition to begin services to Abu Dhabi through its discussions with Abu Dhabi Airports, the Department of Culture and Tourism of Abu Dhabi, and other key stakeholders in the UAE capital.

A combination of Etihad and China Eastern services, which would coincide with the newly opened Terminal A at Abu Dhabi International Airport, will create a robust platform for China-UAE air traffic and establish an ideal launchpad for connections between China, the Middle East, and Africa.

Antonoaldo Neves, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, emphasized the significance of the partnership, saying the airlines have operated an

Etihad Airways and China Eastern Airlines strengthen strategic cooperation

enduring partnership for over a decade and that the recent MOU is an important milestone in that relationship.

"This MoU is an important milestone and a key to establishing a long-term mutually beneficial cooperation. I am highly encouraged by the momentum of our cooperation, and I look forward to seeing further success. It also marks a significant development of the direct links between Abu Dhabi and China and underscores the confidence of one of the most influential Chinese carriers in Etihad. The MoU paves the way for an agreement that will boost Abu Dhabi's economic development, as well as supporting China's 'Belt and Road Initiative,'" said Neves.

Li Yangmin, President of China Eastern Airlines Group, commented: "The MoU builds upon our existing cooperation. It makes possible an agreement that would allow us to collaborate in real and practical ways as part of the continually flourishing relationship between China and the UAE.

"The connection between China Eastern's Shanghai hub and Etihad's network through Abu Dhabi will significantly enhance our footprint in the Middle East and Africa. It supports our commitment to the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and the 'Aerial Silk Road,' stimulating economic, trade and cultural exchanges between China and partner countries."

His Excellency Hussain Al Hammadi, the UAE Ambassador to China, noted: "In a remarkable testament to strengthened collaboration, our partnership goes beyond operational enhancements, emphasizing the promotion of extensive people-to-people exchanges. We eagerly anticipate welcoming a surge of Chinese tourists to the UAE, inviting them to immerse themselves in our nation's unique culture. As we approach the forthcoming 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the UAE and China, we express our sincere hopes for an even deeper relationship across diplomacy, trade, culture, and various other spheres."

Uzbekistan Airways digitalizes flight operations to drive efficiency and greater agility

TASHKENT: As part of its strategy to streamline flight operations by leveraging the latest technologies, Uzbekistan Airways has signed up to deploy SITA Mission Watch. The solution will drive greater agility and efficiency, including annual savings of over US\$600,000 in weather-related incidence avoidance and 300 tons of fuel.

"We turned to SITA for their expertise in delivering reliable digital solutions for our industry. SITA Mission Watch will be a key operational tool for our flight dispatchers to support from a flight planning and safety perspective, including the ability to adapt when faced with disruptions like changing weather," said Shukhrat Khudaykulov, CEO, Uzbekistan Airways.

SITA Mission Watch is a next-generation flight tracking tool used by dispatchers and operational teams. It aggregates and automates aircraft positions combined with real-time information such as weather. SITA Mission Watch's best-in-class weather feed uniquely provides multi-source forecasts for greater reliability and accuracy, supporting

flight planning and disruption management.

Increasing weather events are a primary cause of flight delays, costing the industry around US\$1 billion annually. Delays also adversely impact passenger satisfaction and brand reputation. In response, airlines are leveraging the latest digital solutions that integrate different sources of operational information to adapt and better manage disruptions like weather hazards and be leaner and more agile.

Yann Cabaret, CEO, SITA FOR AIRCRAFT, said: "Inefficiencies – such as missed on-time performance due to weather disruptions – cost airlines money in fuel, compensation, repairs, etc. Our applications are designed to help airlines to stay ahead and improve aircraft safety and operational efficiency."



Riyadh Air Collaborates with Accenture as part of its vision to be the world's first digitally native airline

data and AI to help deliver a seamless travel experience for its guests and employees. The core enterprise system will enable the company to scale as it aims to offer over 100 destinations by 2030.

“As a digitally native airline, Riyadh Air will be at the forefront of innovation and technology, allowing us to deliver world-class service to our guests. There is a considerable amount of unseen work taking place behind the scenes enabling both our operations and user experience, with Accenture, as our strategic technology partner, helping us to deliver, secure and operate foundational capabilities,” said Adam Boukadida, chief financial officer of Riyadh Air.

Emily Weiss, senior managing director at Accenture and head of its Travel practice globally, said, “The launch of Riyadh Air is a landmark moment for the aviation industry as a whole; a brand-new airline that’s designed from the ground up, harnessing the latest technologies to create hyper-connected experiences that meet the demands of today’s, and tomorrow’s travelers. Drawing on our deep industry and digital expertise, we are proud to be collaborating with Riyadh Air to help shape the future of travel.”

Riyadh, KSA: Riyadh Air announced it has signed a three-year strategic agreement with Accenture (NYSE: ACN) to help deliver its technology foundation and capabilities as part of its vision to be the world’s first digitally native airline.

Accenture will help set up Riyadh Air’s cloud-only infrastructure, cybersecurity capabilities, managed services and operations as the airline gears up for its launch.

The initiative will enable Riyadh Air to operate in a new era of aviation with digital services at its core, using cutting-edge technologies such as cloud

FAI extends partnership with McLaren Formula 1 Team

Nuremberg, Germany: FAI Aviation Group, one of the world’s leading global providers of mission-critical aviation services, has extended its partnership with the world-famous McLaren Formula 1 Team.

Henceforth, FAI will be known as an ‘official partner’ of the McLaren Formula 1 Team and continue to provide executive aviation services to the team. As part of the agreement, FAI Aviation Group is proud to be prominently represented on Lando Norris’ helmet.

The partnership between the two companies which commenced in early 2020, aligns two internationally recognized and established brands, leaders in their fields, both committed to excellence. Over this time, it has enabled FAI to raise its profile within the Formula 1 community and grow its brand.

“We are extremely pleased to extend our partnership with McLaren Racing following a successful close to four-year cooperation. As a company, we have boosted our visibility and enhanced our value. We look forward to continuing serving the McLaren team, which is having a terrific Season flying them to

their race destinations across the world, as their official partner,” said Siegfried Axtmann, Group Chairman and Founder, FAI Aviation Group.

Zak Brown, Chief Executive Officer, McLaren Racing, commented: “We are delighted to extend our partnership with FAI Aviation Group. Since 2020, we have had a strong partnership underlined by a dedication to professionalism, and we are proud to continue this into the 2024 season and beyond.”



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Sky One signs MOU to acquire Romania's Uplift Airport Services

Sharjah, UAE: Sky One, a major aviation conglomerate headquartered in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, is poised to acquire Uplift Airport Services, an independent ground handling services company based in Bucharest International Airport in Romania.

A Memorandum of Understanding for the acquisition has been signed between the companies.

Uplift Airport Services SRL is an independent ground handling company, fully licensed to provide full services for passengers and aircraft, such as ramp, cargo, ticketing, and catering handling services. Along with general aviation services for various types of flights, including business and VIP. Uplift's dedicated team of over 200 employees is committed to ensuring seamless and efficient airline operations across the board.

"We see this association as part of Sky One's commitment to offering a one-stop solution to airlines of all sizes. We believe that Uplift Airport Services would be the perfect addition to the company's portfolio. The acquisition would represent a significant step forward in our expansion plans and align



perfectly with our vision of providing a comprehensive suite of services to airlines worldwide. We are confident that this partnership will not only boost our growth but also enhance our ability to meet the evolving needs of the aviation industry," said Jaideep Mirchandani, Chairman of Sky One FZE.

With this MOU, Sky One further solidifies its position as an aviation pioneer, offering a wide spectrum of services, including leasing spare parts, MRO, ACMI, advisory services, and now world-class ground handling through Uplift Airport Services.

Sanad and Thales elevate aviation industry with strategic alliance



Dubai, UAE: Sanad, the global aerospace engineering and leasing solutions leader wholly owned by Abu Dhabi's sovereign investor Mubadala Investment Company PJSC (Mubadala), has entered into a landmark strategic framework agreement with Thales, a global leader in advanced technologies within Aerospace, Defense & Security and Digital Identity & Security.

The agreement expands Sanad's Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services into the dynamic fields of airport security and air traffic control and digital operation, beckoning a pivotal moment in the region's aviation landscape.

The milestone agreement was signed during the Dubai Air Show with Mansoor Janahi, Managing Director and Group CEO of Sanad and Elias Merrawe, Vice president, Civil Business of Thales in the Middle East, marking a significant milestone in the region's aerospace sector.

Building on the foundation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Sanad and Thales in 2022, the two companies are poised to deepen their collaboration in the rapidly developing realms of airport services.

Under the new agreement, the partnership will extend into the domain of airport security and digital operations, encompassing crucial areas such as

airport safety and security systems in this endeavor, Thales will take the lead in designing and constructing these vital systems. Concurrently, Sanad will assume a pivotal role in overseeing critical tasks such as maintenance, installation, rigorous testing, and commissioning activities for these cutting-edge systems.

"Our strategic alliance with Thales represents a significant milestone in Sanad's journey. By collaborating with an industry leader, we contribute to sustaining efficient operations at some of the busiest airports in the Middle East and Africa. We aim to shape a more cohesive and collaborative aviation industry rooted in engineering excellence and technological innovation. Additionally, we are contributing to building local capacity and reinforcing Abu Dhabi's position as a leading aviation hub by expanding our partnerships, capabilities, and geographic footprint," said Mansoor Janahi, Managing Director and Group CEO of Sanad.

Elias Merrawe, Vice president, Civil Business of Thales in the Middle East, commented: "Sanad's outstanding global aerospace engineering and leasing solutions combined with Thales' high technologies will create prosperous synergies in the field of airport operations and security. This strategic agreement will bring innovative technologies to the front and boost local industrial growth. As we look to build a future that we can all trust, innovation and knowledge exchange play a vital role in developing a sustainable aviation future."

Airports in the Middle East are projected to invest over USD 150 billion in capacity expansion due to global air passenger demand, which is projected to increase more than two-fold by 2040.



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Hamad International Airport ready to welcome fans for the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023

Doha, Qatar: Hamad International Airport (DOH), Qatar's renowned aviation hub, stands poised to welcome visitors from around the globe, as Qatar hosts the prestigious 18th edition of AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023TM.

Set to take place from January 12 to February 10, 2024, the tournament will see 24 of the continent's top teams competing in 51 matches across Qatar's state-of-the-art stadiums.

Drawing from the lessons and expertise gained during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 TM, the airport has meticulously planned its operations to ensure a seamless arrival experience for visitors entering the vibrant city of Doha.

The comprehensive preparation includes seamless coordination and communication among all stakeholders ensuring optimal service delivery. Extensive collaboration with transport providers guarantees efficient connectivity to and from the airport, the city, and the stadiums, with multiple public transport options, including taxis, bus services, and the metro, available for visitors.

Arriving passengers can access necessary amenities like foreign exchange services, food and beverage



options, convenient stores, ATMs and purchase local sim cards, which are all conveniently located at the arrival hall.

Passengers with transit time of more than 8 hours can opt to book a Doha city tour through Discover Qatar, the destination management company of Qatar Airways, to experience the city during the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 TM.

Qatar Airways, the country's national carrier, has partnered with the Asian Football Confederation to transform the fan experience at Asian football competitions in the coming years, including the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023TM.

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



Brussels, Belgium: One year ago, Brussels Airport announced the first delivery of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) via the NATO pipeline. But its high price slows down its use by most airlines.

This year, however, airlines are getting assistance from the federal government in a bid to accelerate the use of SAF and further develop the aviation sector. Brussels Airport said this assistance, which comes in financial contribution, will be made available to all airlines, passenger or cargo, for all flights taking off from Brussels Airport starting this year.

SAF is one of the most promising solutions to enable the transition to climate-neutral flying by 2050. The SAF technology has been tested and approved, and SAF can be "blended" with regular fuel. Aircraft can fly with this blend, in varying proportions depending on the type of aircraft. As electric and hydrogen technologies for aircraft are not yet ready for use, SAF is the only means currently available to the aviation

Belgium to offer financial incentives to all passenger and cargo airlines using SAF starting this year

industry to strongly reduce CO2 emissions.

However, SAF costs considerably more than fossil fuel, mainly because of the higher raw materials and production cost (such as used and residue plant and animal oils and fats), but also the costs of investing in refineries. And yet airlines are interested in switching to this type of fuel.

"Just as the aviation sector must use every means at its disposal to reduce its ecological footprint, we must, in Belgium and across Europe, use all the levers available to accelerate this movement. Thanks to this unique support mechanism, we will encourage companies to opt for SAF rather than fossil fuel: this is one concrete way, among others, of testing this means of reducing CO2 emissions in the aviation sector on a large scale," said Georges Gilkinet, Belgium Minister of Mobility.

The SAF incentive will be made available to all passenger and cargo airlines, for both short-haul and long-haul flights departing from Brussels Airport, in the course of 2024. The SAF incentive amounts to a maximum of 200,000 euros per airline, which should enable them to cover up to 80% of the additional cost of using this fuel.

Arnaud Feist, CEO of Brussels Airport Company, commented: "The SAF incentive program is one of the measures that Brussels Airport Company wanted to take to accelerate the sustainable development of aviation and promote the use of sustainable aviation fuels. We are happy that the federal government has accepted our proposal for a SAF incentive. As an airport, within the framework of our European Stargate program, we have expressed the ambition to aim for 5% SAF on total kerosene use by airlines at Brussels Airport by 2026. That is faster than the European target, but we want to fully commit to this together with our airline partners."



Qatar Airways Group CEO elected member of the IATA Board of Governors and Arab Air Carriers Organization

DOHA, Qatar: Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer was recently elected to the International Air Transport Association's Board of Governors and a Member of the Executive Committee of the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO).

Representing some 320 airlines or 83% of total air traffic, IATA's mission is to represent, lead, and serve the airline industry where it advocates for the interests of airlines across the globe.

AACO, on the other hand, is the regional association of the Arab Airlines representing 34 carriers with a mission to promote cooperation amongst its members in many areas such as aeropolitical affairs, environmental sustainability and training through its regional training centre.

With a strong aviation background, Engr. Badr Al-Meer will be able to support the associations in

shaping the future growth of safe, secure, and sustainable air transport, working with members to connect and enrich our world through air travel.

Engr. Badr Al-Meer became GCEO of Qatar Airways on 5 November 2023 following more than 10 years as the Chief Operating Officer of Hamad International Airport.

From 2018 to 2020, Engr. Badr Al-Meer was a Board Director of the Airports Council International in the Asia/Pacific Region, where his expertise contributed to Future Airport Development and Airport Sustainability.

His leadership was pivotal in Hamad International Airport receiving several industry accolades including Skytrax's 'Best Airport in the World' in 2021 and 2022, a testament to the capability and dedication of the entire organization.

Engr. Badr Al-Meer has built an outstanding track record in construction, and large-scale project development. In his new role as Group CEO, Engr. Badr Al-Meer's experience in delivering successful outcomes in aviation and project management positions him uniquely to lead Qatar Airways Group's exciting new era that will see innovation cultivate a unified and motivated workforce.



Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer

dnata appoints Managing Director for Switzerland



Willy Ruf

Zürich, Switzerland: dnata, a leading global air and travel services provider, announced the appointment of Willy Ruf as the company's Managing Director for Switzerland.

Ruf will oversee dnata's ground handling and cargo business and operations at Geneva Airport (GVA) and Zürich Airport (ZRH) in Switzerland. He will manage a team of 1,100 employees, ensuring world-class services and safety for over 30 airline customers.

A Swiss national, Ruf has over 30 years of international experience in the ground handling, cargo and travel industries. Most recently, he has been dnata's Head of Operations in Geneva. Prior to joining dnata, he held various senior leadership roles at Wisag and Swissport across Europe.

He will report to Stewart Angus, dnata's Regional CEO for Europe. His appointment is effective 1 January 2024. In his new role Willy will replace Roberto Feijoo Lopez, who decided to leave dnata to pursue another opportunity.

"We are delighted to announce the appointment of Willy, who has demonstrated exceptional management skills and steadfast commitment to excellence as our operations leader in Geneva. As a respected and experienced leader in our industry, he is well-equipped to contribute significantly to our strategic objectives and strengthen dnata's market presence in Switzerland," said Angus.

In the financial year 2022-23, dnata's team assisted a total of seven million passengers and moved over 60,000 tons of cargo in Geneva and Zürich.

dnata is a leading global air and travel services provider. It offers quality and safe ground handling, cargo, travel, catering, and retail

'Bernhard zur Strassen is time:matters new Managing Director

Frankfurt, Germany: Bernhard zur Strassen has been named as the new Managing Director and CEO of time:matters GmbH effective 1 November 2023.

Zur Strassen has extensive experience in international management for logistics service providers and shippers. Most recently, he held the position of Chief Revenue Officer at Shipsta S.à.r.l., a software company.

"We are delighted to have Bernhard zur Strassen on board as the new CEO of time:matters GmbH. He has an extensive and long-standing expertise in

the field of logistics, making him optimally qualified to further establish time:matters as a company for time-critical emergency and highly flexible transport solutions," said Frank Bauer, Chief Financial Officer and Labour Director at Lufthansa Cargo.

Bernhard zur Strassen began his logistics career at Lufthansa Cargo, where he authored his thesis for his business studies. He then held several international positions at Kühne + Nagel, a logistics service provider, in Switzerland, England, and Luxembourg.

Zur Strassen subsequently oversaw the global transportation network and later managed the logistics and supply chain for a worldwide automotive industry supplier. At time:matters, he will drive international growth with customers, digitalization and sustainability.



Bernhard zur Strassen

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Upcoming Events



20th Transport Middle East 2024 Exhibition and Conference

The biggest and longest-established annual Ports and Terminal Operations event in the Middle East is returning next month in Abu Dhabi. The two-day international conference will feature 30 world-class speakers addressing topical issues and challenges in global transportation and logistics.

Join 300 senior executives, harbor engineers, port engineers, and procurement decision-makers from the GCC region, along with leading shippers, cargo owners, importers/exporters, shipping lines, freight forwarders, logistics companies, ports, terminal operating companies, railway operators, and port equipment and services suppliers in this proactive event.

23 - 25 January, 2024
InterContinental Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE

World Cargo Summit 2024

After the successful inaugural World Cargo Summit held in Abu Dhabi this year, the next event will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. The current business environment for the air freight industry is highly challenging and unpredictable.

World Cargo Summit will focus on air cargo economics, strategy and market trends. If you are looking for new contacts, this event will provide unrivalled business opportunities. Meet and network with airlines, airports, forwarders, project developers and aviation service providers. We have incredible networking capabilities to drive meaningful engagement between participants.

29-31 January, 2024
Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit Bangkok, Thailand

6th Annual Cargo Facts EMEA

Immerse yourself in the epicenter of airfreight innovation at the 6th annual Cargo Facts EMEA. All freighter professionals are invited to register and step into a dynamic environment filled with unparalleled networking opportunities, industry insights, and business growth potential.

Dive into engaging sessions led by global experts who will share invaluable insights and experiences. Thoughtfully curated topics and discussions will traverse the breadth and depth of the industry, from freighter conversions and e-commerce fleet growth and modernization to airfreight market trends and sustainability efforts.

05-07 February, 2024
Amsterdam, The Netherlands



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



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