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Giving back to the world while dominating the market

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Chief Officer Cargo, Qatar Airways Cargo



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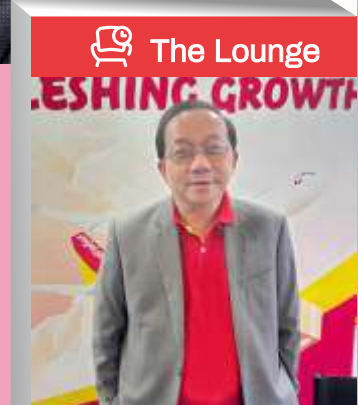
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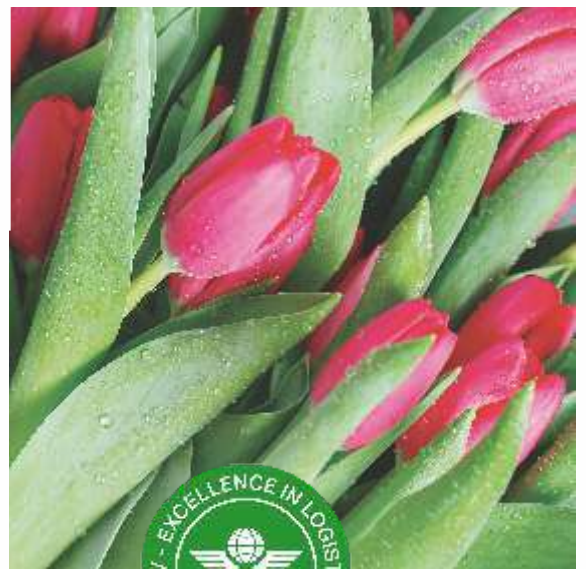
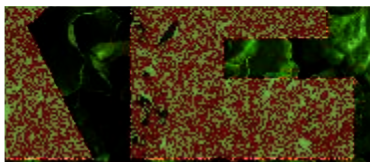
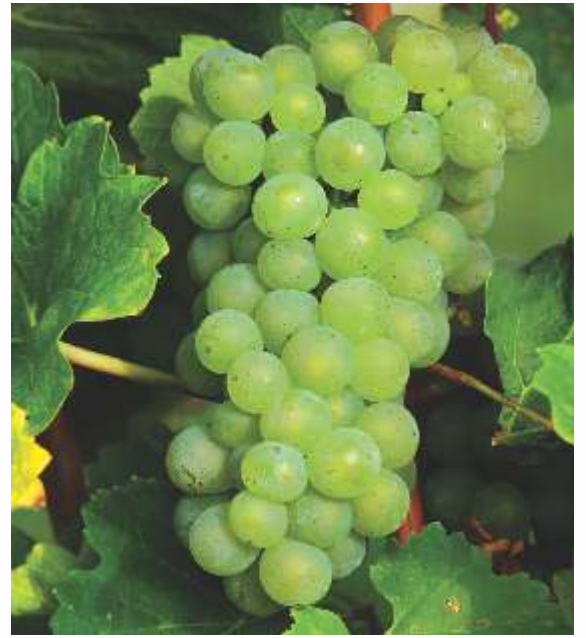


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Do Xuan Quang
CEO, Vietjetair Cargo



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7dimensions
M E D I A F Z E

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

DIRECTOR & PUBLISHER

Israr Ahmad

israr@7dimensionsmedia.com

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Poonam Chawla

poonam@7dimensionsmedia.com

CHIEF EDITOR

Gemma Q. Casas

gemma@aircargoupdate.com

EDITOR

Ayesha Rashid

ayasha@7dimensionsmedia.com

STAFF REPORTER

R. Chandrakanth

chandrakant@aircargoupdate.com

HEAD OPERATIONS

Mohammad Karimulla

karimulla@7dimensionsmedia.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Mohammed Imran

imran@7dimensionsmedia.com

PHOTO JOURNALIST

Deepu Raj

deepu@7dimensionsmedia.com

WORLDWIDE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

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

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

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

Blending innovation and sustainability: The Future of Airports

Airports, once mere gateways to distant lands, have evolved into bustling hubs of commerce, culture, and connectivity. As global travel continues to surge, these vital infrastructure assets face increasing pressure to deliver exceptional experiences while minimizing their environmental footprint. The future of airports lies in a harmonious blend of innovation and sustainability.

Innovation is the driving force behind the airport industry's transformation. From cutting-edge technologies that streamline passenger flow to sustainable infrastructure solutions that reduce emissions, innovation is key to addressing the challenges of the modern airport.

For instance, biometric technologies, such as facial recognition and iris scanning, can expedite security checks and enhance passenger satisfaction. Additionally, the adoption of sustainable materials and energy-efficient systems can significantly reduce the environmental impact of airport operations.

Sustainability, on the other hand, is essential for ensuring the long-term viability of airports. As climate change poses a growing threat to our planet, it is imperative for airports to adopt practices that minimize their carbon footprint.

This includes investing in renewable energy sources, reducing waste generation, and implementing sustainable ground transportation options. By prioritizing sustainability, airports can not only contribute to a healthier planet but also enhance their reputation and attract environmentally conscious travelers.

According to the intelligence and research firm, MarketsandMarkets, global airport investment is estimated to reach USD 2,404 billion by 2040, from USD 200 billion in 2021, at a CAGR of 14.4%. The surge in airport investments worldwide is mainly driven by increasing demand for air travel, rising middle class, and technological advancements.

In this edition, **Air Cargo Update** brings you the latest news and features, and a special section dedicated to major airports' innovative and sustainable solutions to create a better and efficient future despite the surge of passengers and cargo volumes.

As global travel continues to evolve, it is essential for airports to remain at the forefront of innovation and sustainability to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Gemma Q. Casas

Editor-in-Chief

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The Lounge

Guitars, Italian food and world travels for this Vietjetair Cargo CEO



Do Xuan Quang
CEO, Vietjetair Cargo

In the bustling world of aviation, it's not every day you come across someone who seamlessly transitions from studying law to becoming a key player in the logistics and aviation industry.

But that's exactly what Do Xuan Quang, the CEO of Vietjetair Cargo did—and he's loving every moment of it.

Quang's journey is anything but typical. "I actually started with a law degree," he says with a laugh, recalling his early days.

"But after graduation, I returned to Vietnam from the Soviet Union and joined a logistics company. That's where my love for aviation and logistics truly began."

It wasn't just a career change; it was a leap into an entirely new world—one that, as it turns out, suited him perfectly.

Quang's eyes light up when he talks about his childhood dream of flying and exploring the world. "I've always had a dream to fly and discover new places. Aviation was a natural fit for me because it combines that passion with a career," he shares. "I love what I do, and I think that's what has kept me going all these years."

Balancing a demanding career with personal life is no small feat, especially in an industry that never sleeps.

"It's definitely a challenge," Quang admits, "When you're

“

I've always had a dream to fly and discover new places. Aviation was a natural fit for me because it combines that passion with a career."

traveling almost 20 days out of the month, finding time for family is tough."

But Quang has found his own way of striking that elusive balance. "I try to enjoy my hobbies—like playing the guitar and reading. These small moments of relaxation help me keep everything in check."

When asked about his favorite destinations, Quang said, "I've traveled all over Europe, China, South Africa—but I have a special place in my heart for Italy and France. There's something about their culture and food that's just amazing."

Despite his extensive travels, he also finds joy in the simple pleasures of life, such as savoring international cuisines, with Italian and French dishes being his top picks.

Quang offers some thoughtful advice for the younger generation.

"You need to have ambition and a love for what you do," he says earnestly.

"Don't just work because you have to—work because you want to. Have a dream and stay motivated. That's the key to success."

And with that, it's clear that Do Xuan Quang isn't just a seasoned executive—he's a man who's carved out a fulfilling career by following his passions and staying true to his dreams.

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THERE WAS REVENUE MANAGEMENT.
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THERE WAS ECS GROUP.

ECS GROUP



Lufthansa Cargo welcomes new freighter aircraft in Frankfurt



Frankfurt, Germany: Lufthansa Cargo welcomed its 18th B777 freighter at Frankfurt Airport in August and the long-haul freighter was transferred directly from the Boeing factory in Everett, USA, to the cargo airline's largest hub.

"We are delighted to welcome another efficient freighter to our fleet. This will allow us to provide our customers with additional capacity, continue to grow in the air freight market and enable global business. This means that we can align our network even more closely with our customers' needs and also offer solutions to market changes at short notice," said Ashwin Bhat, CEO of Lufthansa Cargo, on their new freighter which was named "Hola Argentina" which conveys "Say hello around the world."

"In addition, the B777F remains the most efficient and modern freighter in its class. Our latest aircraft is therefore another important investment in our modern long-haul fleet and contributing in making air cargo more sustainable," he added.

Lufthansa Cargo currently operates a full B777F fleet of 12 of its own aircraft on long-haul routes. In addition, six B777 freighters are operated by AeroLogic, a joint venture between DLH and Lufthansa Cargo.

Its global network is additionally supplemented by a total of four A321 freighters on short and medium-haul routes. From this summer, these will not only operate to and from Frankfurt, but will also connect the Munich hub directly to the freighter network.

In addition, Lufthansa Cargo utilizes the belly capacities of Lufthansa, Discover, Brussels, Austrian Airlines and SunExpress. This enables the Lufthansa Group's logistics expert to offer its freight customers the transportation of their shipments with up to 7,000 flights a week to over 350 destinations worldwide.



The Future of Air Cargo: Embracing the e-commerce surge

The rapid growth of cross-border e-commerce is transforming the air cargo industry. In 2017, e-commerce accounted for just 10% of total air cargo volume; by 2022, this had doubled to 20%, and it is projected to reach 25% by 2027. As a result, airlines are now generating 18% of their revenue from e-commerce, a figure that is expected to rise in the coming years. This growth demands that airlines, in collaboration with airports and other key players, evolve into modern service providers capable of meeting the ever-increasing expectations of e-commerce consumers.

Consumers expect the same speed, predictability, and visibility from cross-border transactions as they do from domestic ones. The pressure to meet these demands is intensified by the standards set by industry giants like Amazon, which offer same-day and next-day deliveries.

Cargo Community Systems (CCS) play a crucial role in this transformation. By integrating all stakeholders—airlines, forwarders, customs, and ground handlers—into a unified platform, CCS streamline air cargo e-commerce operations. This enhanced coordination leads to faster deliveries, reduced errors, and improved tracking at piece-level, all critical for satisfying e-commerce customers.

In addition to speed, sustainability has become a critical factor, particularly for younger consumers who prioritize green logistics practices. The air cargo industry must therefore focus on enhancing operational efficiency through digitisation. Streamlining processes and improving customer relationships are essential first steps. As the sector embraces these changes, it will be better positioned to handle the future growth of e-commerce and maintain its vital role in the global supply chain.



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Saudia Cargo accelerates export growth with 'Landing in China in 24' Campaign



Marwan Niazi
VP Commercial, Saudia Cargo

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: Saudia Cargo has unveiled its latest campaign, 'Landing in China in 24', highlighting the company's swift and reliable shipping services to multiple destinations across China, empowering Saudi exports to gain a strong foothold in the competitive Chinese market.

The campaign is closely aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which emphasizes the growth of non-oil exports and the diversification of the Kingdom's revenue streams.

Saudia Cargo operates 18 weekly cargo flights to Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shanghai & Shenzhen. Additionally, the company offers an extra 10 weekly flights on Saudia Airlines passenger aircraft from Guangzhou and Beijing to further enhance cargo capacity.

Saudia Cargo affirmed its dedication to offer advanced logistics solutions that not only bolster Saudi exports but also expand their reach in global markets with its superior logistical and technological capabilities in managing shipments worldwide.

Additionally, the campaign aims to deepen trade ties between Saudi Arabia and China by positioning Saudi products prominently in one of the world's most vital markets, thereby, driving economic growth. The 'Landing in China in 24' is in close collaboration with the 'Made in Saudi' initiative, championed by the Saudi Export Development Authority, which focuses on enhancing the global recognition and quality of Saudi products.

Marwan Niazi, Vice President of Commercial at Saudia Cargo, stated: "Through this

campaign, we aim to enhance our shipping capabilities and broaden our export scope to the Chinese markets by optimizing export operations and providing advanced logistic services that align with the growing global market demands and commercial connections. We have focused on facilitating the access of Saudi products to the Chinese markets and showcasing our logistical capabilities and operational efficiency."

"The campaign has generated substantial engagement across social media platforms from partners and related sectors, including the National Competitiveness Center, the National Livestock and Fisheries Development Program, the Saudi Export Development Authority, and the General Authority of Foreign Trade. This demonstrates the widespread interest and support for the campaign," Niazi added.

China is Saudi Arabia's main merchandise trading partner. In 2023, the value of Saudi exports to China was 16.1 billion SAR, representing 17% of total exports. This highlights the continuous upwards trend supporting the opening of new commercial channels and destinations in China.

Asia Pacific tonnages rebound strongly after Japan typhoon dip



Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Air cargo tonnages from Asia Pacific have rebounded strongly in the last full week of August after dipping sharply following flight cancellations resulting from a typhoon in Northeast Asia the prior week but tonnages from Europe

origins (+91%, WoW).

The other major contributors included strong WoW increases from South Korea (+16%, WoW), mainland China (+7%, WoW), and Hong Kong (+3%, WoW). These three major export markets together recorded an improvement of +14%, WoW, and together accounted for 30% (or 1.5 percentage points) of the +5% WoW global improvement.

have yet to bounce back from the mid-August 'Assumption' holiday.

According to the latest figures and analysis from WorldACD Market Data, worldwide air cargo tonnages in week 34 (19-25 August) rebounded by +5%, compared with the previous week, mainly driven by a week-on-week (WoW) increase of +11% from Asia Pacific origins.

The patterns in weeks 33 and 34 are similar to last year, where in addition to the annual 'Assumption' holiday, flights in Asia Pacific were disrupted by last year's Typhoon Lan. One difference is that tonnages from Europe bounced back more quickly in week 34 last year, whereas this year the recovery from the European holiday is quite limited (+1%, WoW).

That follows a -7% drop in worldwide flown cargo the previous week, most of which was linked to the impact of Typhoon Ampil on air cargo to and from Japan – and to a lesser extent South Korea – and to the 15 August holiday in various European countries.

Further analysis, based on the more than 450,000 weekly transactions covered by WorldACD's data, indicates that 40% (or 2 percentage points) of the +5% WoW global rebound in week 34 was driven by the post-typhoon recovery of tonnages from Japan



Alberta, Canada: As the world marked International Dog Day on August 26, WestJet Cargo announced the expansion of its pet transportation services to three major European airports: London Gatwick (LGW), London Heathrow (LHR), and Edinburgh (EDI).

This expansion comes in response to the growing demand for secure and reliable international pet travel between Canada and Europe, reinforcing WestJet Cargo's commitment to providing specialized care for pets during their journey.

"At WestJet Cargo, we recognize that pets are beloved members of the family, and their safety

WestJet Cargo expands pet transportation services to major European Destinations on International Dog Day

and comfort during travel are our utmost priorities. By extending our pet transportation service to LGW, LHR, and EDI, we are enhancing connectivity for pet owners and ensuring that their pets receive the highest standard of care throughout their journey," said Kirsten de Bruijn, Executive Vice President of WestJet Cargo.

WestJet Cargo's pet transportation service is tailored to meet the specific needs of all pets, including brachycephalic breeds, which require special attention during air travel.

The airline strictly adheres to IATA's Live Animals Regulations, and all pet transport occurs in pressurized, temperature-controlled cargo holds to ensure a safe and comfortable environment. Pet owners are provided with comprehensive pre-flight preparation guidelines, and WestJet Cargo maintains open communication throughout the journey, offering support in the event of any unexpected changes.

Pet owners and specialized freight forwarders can easily arrange transportation through WestJet Cargo's customer service or online booking system. The service is designed to comply with European regulations, accommodating the specific requirements of international pet travel.

In addition to the new routes, WestJet Cargo has been operating year-round pet transportation services to Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG) since this year.

In response to continued strong demand, some of the routes scheduled to pause later this year will resume next year. Looking forward, WestJet Cargo plans to leverage its strong passenger network to further expand its pet transportation services across Europe.

Marsh launches US\$50 mn port blockage insurance facility amid heightened supply chain risks

Dubai, UAE: Marsh, the world's leading insurance broker and risk advisor and a business of Marsh McLennan, has launched the first of its kind US\$50 million port blockage insurance facility, covering shipping ports and terminals around the world.

Created by Marsh following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge and subsequent disruption at the Port of Baltimore, the insurance facility can be purchased independently or used to supplement existing cover.

Available to Marsh clients globally, the company said it is specifically designed to provide clients with cover for loss of revenue caused by third-party accidents such as a vessel sinking in a channel, a vessel impact resulting in a waterway closure, or a natural catastrophe.

Marsch said the facility is backed by a panel of Lloyd's of London and London market A+ rated

insurers, and offers capacity of US\$50 million, with higher limits being available on a case-by-case basis.

Port blockage is a growing concern for businesses operating in the maritime industry and can result in significant disruptions to global supply chains and loss of revenue. The facility's wording can be customised to meet the specific needs of individual clients, meaning that coverage can be aligned to specific risk exposures and operational requirements.



Commenting on the launch, Louise Nevill, CEO, UK Marine, Marsh Specialty, said: "Port blockages around the world are increasing with frequency and severity, and are resulting in debilitating consequences for businesses involved in international trade. As global trade continues to expand, this new facility offers clients a rapidly available layer of insurance cover to protect operations and recovery in the event of port and terminal disruptions."

With annual revenue of \$23 billion, Marsh, a business of Marsh McLennan (NYSE: MMC), is the world's top insurance broker and risk advisor with clients across 130 countries.

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The IATA World Cargo Symposium, the largest and most prestigious air cargo annual event, comes back in Dubai, UAE, in April 2025.

The 2024 edition brought close to 2'000 delegates to Hong Kong (SAR), China. The next WCS will continue offering plenary sessions, specialized streams, workshops, and executive summits tackling aspects related to technology, innovation, security, customs, cargo operations, and sustainability.

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Teleport opts for Wiremind's SKYPALLET Solution



Paris, France: Southeast Asia's number one integrated logistics provider, Teleport, and Wiremind signed the SKYPALLET implementation contract on 01 June 2024, following a successful Proof of Concept trial.

The stepwise roll-out of the original SKYPALLET software version is now underway, with a subsequent SKYPALLET Version 2 deployment phase planned as soon as the product is launched later this year.

Initial cooperation talks began at the end of last year when Teleport was seeking to find the perfect digital fit to advance its capacity steering and load planning processes. Having established Teleport's requirements, Wiremind arranged an accompanied trial period enabling the carrier to test the full range of SKYPALLET's functionalities. In particular, SKYPALLET's advanced algorithmic logic and the software's extensive integration options convinced Teleport to begin implementation.

"Teleport is no stranger to advanced digital solutions, knows exactly what it wants, and provided us with excellent feedback during its extended SKYPALLET trial, earlier this year," said Guillermo Medina Moralejo, VP Cargo Business Development of Wiremind. "This has willingly been incorporated in our SKYPALLET Version 2 roadmap, and Teleport will be among the first of our customers to benefit from the upgrade. And I am proud and thankful to say, Teleport is our first customer in Southeast Asia. With the region's leading logistics provider on board, Wiremind has achieved a solid milestone on its global expansion journey."

Milan Dhingra, Chief Product Officer at Teleport, explained, "As a tech-enabled logistics provider, we are continuously exploring ways to optimize while further simplifying our operations—from improving pallet configurations to reducing manual planning efforts and minimizing errors. With the latest addition of this upgraded dynamic load planning tool to our technology stack, we are confident that it will allow us to achieve greater automation and accuracy in our planning, which will result in better productivity and space utilization. All of which will positively impact our customers' experience with Teleport."

Discovery: ECS Group's internal training tool empowers teams for future success

Paris, France: ECS Group, the global leader in air cargo GSSA services, reaffirms its commitment to employee growth and excellence with Discovery, an internal training platform designed to elevate skills and expertise within the organization.

ECS Group asserted that employees are at the heart of innovation and excellence, thus, staff training is paramount to ensure they lead the industry's future. With Discovery, ECS Group aims to elevate professional acumen, making continual upskilling a standard practice.

Since its inception in 2020, Discovery has played a pivotal role in cultivating employee skills and adapting to the evolving needs of the air cargo industry. Praised by employees for its impact on their skills and job performance, it has become a cornerstone of ECS Group's internal training initiatives.

With active participation from over 1,200 learners, Discovery has facilitated the completion of more than 5,600 courses to date. Presently, the platform offers a rich selection of 77 courses. Learners having completed at least one training course have collectively invested over 10,000 hours, demonstrating strong engagement. Geographically, Discovery enjoys a widespread global user base, with a particularly strong presence in Europe.

Dimitri Arnaudin, Director of Digital and Innovation at ECS Group, emphasizes the



Dimitri Arnaudin

platform's role in driving digital transformation.

"Discovery represents a crucial step in our digitalization journey, empowering employees to adapt to the changing landscape of the air cargo industry. By providing accessible, interactive, and personalized training experiences, we are equipping our teams with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in today's dynamic environment," he said.

Discovery offers an array of features designed to facilitate interactive and personalized learning experiences for employees. These include a user-

friendly search bar and an organized course catalog for easy access to resources. Incorporating multimedia elements like videos and quizzes accommodates diverse learning styles.

Its compatibility across devices ensures flexibility, and personalized modules cater to specific job roles. Robust assessment and certification features validate employee proficiency, effectively recognizing their learning achievements.

Looking ahead, ECS Group remains committed to the continuous evolution of Discovery, which not only integrates emerging technologies and industry trends, but also offers a diverse range of content including IT and Digital solutions, as well as knowledge specific to the Air Cargo Industry and sustainability-related topics.

These enrichments complement the innovative digital tools crafted by CargoTech, the premier one-stop shop for air cargo digital solutions. Together, the advancements in Discovery and the solutions provided by CargoTech promise to revolutionize employee training and equip teams to navigate the ever-changing landscape of the air cargo industry with confidence & expertise.

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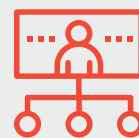
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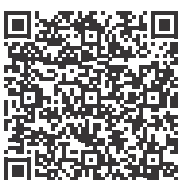
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WFS wins 5-year ramp handling license at New York JFK's Terminal 4

Singapore: Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a member of the SATS Group, has won a 5-year license to provide ramp handling for aircraft at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport's Terminal 4.

The new below-the-wing ramp handling license becomes effective from October 1, 2024. It covers all ramp handling activities and cabin cleaning services.

The license was awarded by JFK International Air Terminal (JFKIAT) – the operator of JFK's Terminal 4 – and follows an extensive review of potential service providers' operations, presence at JFK and in North America, financial status, safety record and processes, and service testimonials.

WFS is already an established provider of passenger services for airlines at JFK, serving 12 airlines across all terminals, for passengers travelling on more than 3,500 flights annually.

"This is a huge step forward for our ground handling operation at JFK's Terminal 4. It enables WFS to offer a full, end-to-end service for passengers and aircraft," said Mike Simpson, CEO the Americas at WFS. "We commend JFKIAT on their thorough analysis of handling providers as part of their selection process, which underlines the



importance of this license."

Susana Desa, Vice President of Operations at JFKIAT, commented: "We are excited to enter into this strategic partnership with WFS to provide World Class Ground Handling services to T4 airlines. Their innovative and sustainable approach to below wing operations perfectly aligns with the values of JFKIAT and Terminal 4."

New York's JFK is one of WFS' 81 stations in Canada and the United States offering network connectivity throughout North America and globally.

Fort Worth, Texas/Singapore: American Airlines Cargo is expanding its strategic partnership with CargoAi, a leading digital enabler in the air cargo industry.

The expansion aims to enhance airfreight booking capabilities on CargoMART, CargoAi's cutting-edge platform for freight management, by integrating American Airlines Cargo's extensive network for use.

Following a successful initial launch in France, the cargo carrier has now extended its network on the CargoMART platform to include origins in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, UK, Spain, and Switzerland.

In this partnership, American Airlines Cargo says it will continue to seamlessly integrate into CargoMART, offering freight forwarders access to a comprehensive network of routes and a streamlined booking process. The advanced technology and functionalities of CargoMART complement the carrier's own digital booking platform, aacargo.com, thereby, enhancing the digital experience for customers seeking capacity and managing bookings on American's cargo network.

"We are excited to announce our inaugural launch on CargoAI following a successful test run out of France" says Greg Schwendinger, President, American Airlines Cargo. "This is the first milestone in what we expect to be a strong and collaborative partnership with CargoAI, as well as a crucial part of our digital distribution strategy to expand our network reach to more cargo customers."

Matt Petot, CEO of CargoAi, expressed his enthusiasm about the expanded partnership: "We are delighted to extend our collaboration with American Airlines Cargo

American Airlines Cargo expands partnership with CargoAi across Europe



to multiple European origins. This partnership underscores our commitment to providing our users with best-in-class digital solutions that optimize their operations and drive efficiency in the air cargo industry."

CargoMART provides a range of features including real-time capacity and rate visibility, quoting, e-Booking, and Track and Trace functionalities. One differentiating feature of the platform is the ability to compare flight options by carbon emissions, track CO2 emissions at a shipment level, and purchase sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) whenever required.

American and CargoAI plan to continue their collaboration with more regional expansions expected in the future. The two companies are eager to see how their partnership will help drive modernization in the industry.

Freight forwarders can register for the CargoMART platform at <https://app.cargoai.co/register>



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FedEx Integrates WhatsApp notifications into digital e-commerce delivery solution for consumers in Saudi Arabia

“The FDMi service enhancement facilitates interactive communication for package recipients, providing them with updates from pickup to delivery. This enhancement underscores our continuous efforts to streamline and simplify the last-mile delivery process, ensuring convenience for consumers,” said Abdulrahman Al-Mubarak, Managing Director of FedEx Middle East operations.”

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: Federal Express Corporation, the world's largest express transportation company, has enhanced its FedEx® Delivery Manager International (FDMi) e-commerce solution with delivery notifications on WhatsApp, available in both English and Arabic, for package recipients in Saudi Arabia.

FDMi is an interactive e-commerce delivery solution that provides customizable delivery options and alerts. E-tailers using the solution can offer their customers the ability to choose the timing and location of their deliveries to fit their schedule – and change the delivery address when the shipment is in transit – giving them extra flexibility at no extra cost.

Recipients expecting inbound deliveries receive a WhatsApp notification from FedEx upon shipment pickup. FedEx uses a META-verified WhatsApp business account which helps recipients mitigate online risks, such as WhatsApp scams perpetrated using the FedEx brand. Recipients can message and chat with FedEx directly in the language of their choice, as well as access tracking status and re-direct options with the click of a button directly in the WhatsApp chat window.

The integration of WhatsApp into FDMi offers considerable benefits to all participants in the e-commerce ecosystem. In an increasingly competitive online marketplace, FDMi helps e-tailers, especially SMEs, provide a differentiated service offer.

Customers get more peace of mind through the traceability of their package on their mobile devices, as well as an enhanced online shopping experience. It also helps FedEx minimize delivery attempts to recipients who may not be present at the registered delivery address.

The WhatsApp instant messaging social media platform has more than 2 billion active monthly users globally, with over 22 million users in the Kingdom 1, making it one of the most popular communication apps in the country.

CargoAi accelerates on CargoWALLET with appointment of Fintech veteran Olivier Veyrac

Paris, France: Launched in February 2023, CargoAi's CargoWALLET has quickly gained traction and today facilitates cargo payments in over 47 currencies. The freight industry's fastest growing digital enabler has now appointed global payment expert, Olivier Veyrac as its Senior Vice President for CargoWALLET.

Over the last 18 months, CargoWALLET has been adopted by 5,000+ Airlines, Freight Forwarders, GHAs and logistic service providers. With CargoWallet, CargoAi freight professionals can now pay from 150 countries and in over 47 currencies using local payment methods.

The wallet is available to all logistics companies. CargoWALLET is proving particularly attractive to freight forwarders because of its instant-cross-border payment capability. With the wallet, airlines can accept instant payments from all their customers, rather than inconvenient cash payments, long settlement times or having to rely on bank guaranties before accepting a booking.

The integration of CargoWALLET directly with freight forwarders Transport Management System (TMS) is an additional use case permitting faster payment and reconciliation via multiple payment methods.

Matt Petot, CEO of CargoAi, commented: “CargoWALLET has reached critical adoption in its early version. I am delighted that Olivier Veyrac has joined us as Senior Vice President of CargoWALLET to take it to the next level. He has extensive financial technology and technology integration experience, working with companies across the world. Furthermore, his experience scaling global BtoB payments solutions and commercial partnerships will prove invaluable to the success of CargoAi fintech venture.”

Veyrac described CargoWallet as having the broadest reach in the industry, enabling more than 200 payment methods in 150 countries with utmost security and confidentiality requirements, but he says, “There is still room for improvement. More new features, more partners, and more countries are my goals for the coming months.”

Cross-border payments via CargoWALLET, have dropped processing

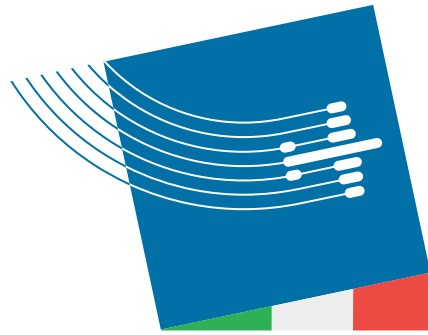


Olivier Veyrac



There is still room for improvement. More new features, more partners, and more countries are my goals for the coming months.”

times from days to seconds, and reduced bank fees. It also opened up the possibility for some import customers in some part of the world to settle their accounts electronically for the first time.



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Air freight capacity at the push of a button: DB Schenker establishes digital connection to more than 50 airlines with cargo.one



Essen, Germany: Ahead of the expected annual peak season in air transport, DB Schenker has chosen cargo.one to digitally connect with dozens more airlines from across the globe.

The collaboration enhances the global logistics service provider's portfolio of live capacity access from nine originally to over 50 airlines in total. From now on, DB Schenker can better identify suitable capacities and fitting rates for ad-hoc shipments of its customers.

"We continue to digitalize transportation by establishing solutions that are highly demanded on the market. By boosting our access to available airline capacities, we save time for our customers and make processes faster, smoother, and more efficient for them. cargo.one is the perfect fit for this endeavor as they bring profound expertise in managing the massive amount of real-time data to the game,"

Thorsten Meincke, Global Board Member for Air & Ocean Freight, DB Schenker, explained.

Christa Koenen, Global Board Member for Information Technology and Digitalization (CIO/CDO), DB Schenker, added, "Efficiency gains accomplished through IT help to make the entire logistics industry more resource efficient. The more carriers DB Schenker connects to digitally, and thus automates and optimizes processes, the better the final choice for our customers will be. The concept is comparable with automated last-minute deals from airlines or travel agents."

Moritz Claussen, Founder and Co-CEO, cargo.one, said they are ecstatic to collaborate with DB Schenker, saying, "DB Schenker has chosen cargo.one to further speed up its path to powerful digital transformation. We are thrilled to provide a state-of-the-art air freight procurement platform that boosts efficiency, accuracy, and user-friendliness for our new partner. With cargo.one's top-tier infrastructure, DB Schenker can elevate customer satisfaction and sharpen its competitive edge."

The demand for rapid short-dated sourcing of air freight capacities and market prices has grown in relevance as global supply chain disruptions have become a normality and e-commerce demand for air transport keeps rising.

B&H Worldwide unveils FirstTRAC Mobile: Enhancing inventory management for aerospace and aviation logistics

London Heathrow: B&H Worldwide, a leading provider of aerospace and aviation logistics solutions, has launched FirstTRAC Mobile, the mobile version of its proprietary inventory management platform, FirstTRAC.

The company said FirstTRAC Mobile which offers an enhanced and convenient way to manage inventory activities directly from a smartphone will be available to all of their existing customers.

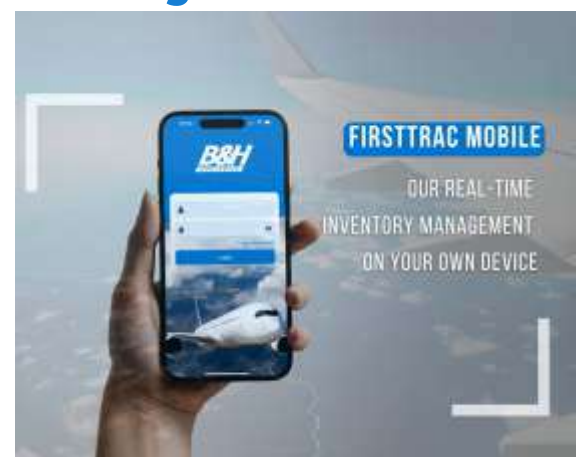
FirstTRAC Mobile provides customers with the ability to track their static inventory located in B&H's global warehouses, monitor orders in process, and follow detailed event-based transport progression.

Additionally, customers can access transport documentation online, ensuring they have comprehensive oversight of their logistics operations.

"FirstTRAC Mobile is a significant milestone in our commitment to delivering innovative solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers," said Paul Wakefield, Group Finance Director at B&H Worldwide. "This mobile application enables real-time access to crucial inventory and shipment information, facilitating more informed decision-making and streamlined logistics processes."

The key features of FirstTRAC Mobile include:

- **Streamlined Data Capture:** The app offers user-friendly forms for tasks such as
- creating Dispatch Requests or submitting Advanced Shipping Notices (ASNs), ensuring swift and accurate data entry.
- **Instant Information Retrieval:** Both staff and customers can quickly retrieve shipment and inventory information, reducing the time spent



searching for essential details.

- **Insightful Dashboards:** Users can visualize key statistics through interactive charts
- and dashboards, gaining actionable insights for improved operational oversight.
- **On-the-Go Document Management:** Warehousing operators can capture and upload attachments, including documents or images, directly within the app, enabling real-time updates and efficient record-keeping.

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Humza Raja
+44 (0) 208 253 4005
humza@evaint.com

Ben Chapman
+44 (0) 208 253 4011
ben@evaint.com

For Speaker & Delegate information please contact:

Parveen Raja
+44 (0) 208 253 4001
parveen@evaint.com

Gemma Keen
+44 (0) 208 253 4002
gemma@evaint.com

Grace Garcia
+44 (0) 208 253 4014
grace@evaint.com

Agility makes new donation to WFP's Gaza and West Bank relief efforts

Gaza/Dubai: The World Food Program (WFP) has welcomed a new financial contribution from their longstanding partner Agility, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, to support WFP's operations in Palestine.

With this latest contribution from Agility, WFP will be able to provide nearly 779,000 hot meals in Gaza ensuring that the most vulnerable populations receive the necessary support amidst ongoing challenges. This will bring the total donations by Agility and its employees to 1 million meals since the start of the current crisis in October last year.

"Agility's generous contribution comes at a crucial time for Palestine, where food insecurity and humanitarian needs are escalating. This support will have an impact on our efforts to provide life-saving assistance to those who need it most. The involvement of the private sector, particularly leaders like Agility, is vital in helping us address these challenges and achieve our mission of zero hunger," said Mageed Yahia, WFP Representative to the GCC.

The latest WFP Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report finds that 96 percent of the population is facing acute food insecurity at crisis level or higher (IPC Category 3+), with almost half a million people in catastrophic conditions (IPC Category 5).

Adequate and sustained levels of humanitarian assistance must be provided, including more fresh food, better nutritional diversity, clean water and sanitation, access to health care and the rebuilding of clinics and hospitals.

"Agility supports WFP's efforts to save lives by delivering critical humanitarian assistance around the world. We've worked closely with WFP in more than 20 countries since we became a WFP partner in 2008, focusing our support on WFP's food assistance program and supply chain services that provide logistics resources to the broader humanitarian community. WFP's brave, committed staff brings assistance to communities in dire need, often amid conflict. In Gaza, WFP is leading efforts to prevent famine and further suffering," said Tarek Sultan, Agility Vice Chairman.



Agility has been a long-standing partner of WFP, consistently demonstrating its commitment to humanitarian causes. As a member of the Logistics Emergency Teams (LETs) and through its bilateral partnerships, Agility has supported over 75+ humanitarian crises by providing free logistics expertise and services such as transportation and warehousing. This partnership, which began in 2008, has been instrumental in enhancing WFP's emergency response capabilities.

In addition to its involvement with LET, Agility has made several direct contributions to WFP over the years, a testament of its unwavering support and dedication to humanitarian efforts.

In July alone, WFP assisted 1.1 million people. Nearly 1 million people in Gaza received in-kind food rations, while nearly 150,000 in the West Bank received cash-based transfers.

WFP needs \$303 million between now and the end of the year to be able to provide critical support for Gaza and the West Bank.

More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed, mostly women and children, and thousands were wounded in Israeli attacks that followed after the 7 October 2023 Hamas attack in Israel. About 110 Israelis are still believed to be held as hostages by the militant group as of August 2024.

Noatum enters Egypt's maritime market with acquisition of Safina Shipping Services

Cairo, Egypt: Noatum Maritime, an AD Ports Group company, has acquired a majority stake in Safina B.V., a leading provider of maritime agency and cargo services in Egypt and across the Middle East region. The deal is expected to close in Q3 2024.

The Emirates news agency WAM reported the acquisition by Noatum Maritime marks a significant milestone in its strategic growth as it leverages Safina's expertise, capacity and reputation in Egypt's maritime agency market. The move will also help in the company's ongoing expansion across the Mediterranean, which recently included the launch of its offices in Türkiye.

Along with its growth in the Middle East region, which represents a key market for the company's global strategy, the move also integrates well into AD Ports Group's broader presence in Egypt, which was recently marked with the signing of concession agreements for the management and operation of cruise and Ro-Ro terminals at Safaga, Hurghada, Sharm El Sheikh and Sokhna ports.

Safina has evolved as a key player in the Egyptian maritime industry, offering comprehensive agency services and maritime logistics to shippers serving the metals, minerals, and fertilizers sectors.

Safina is situated across six strategic office locations, including its headquarters in Cairo which allows it to provide agency services across 15

Egyptian ports, offering liner and tramp agency services as well as transit services through the Suez Canal. Safina enjoys a sizeable market share in both Mediterranean and Red Sea Egyptian Ports, inclusive of Sokhna, Adabiya, Damietta, Port Said and Alexandria.

Terry Gidlow, Chief Executive Officer, Noatum Maritime, Noatum, Logistics Cluster, AD Ports Group, said, "Welcoming Safina into the Noatum Maritime family aligns perfectly with our vision for growth. The move enhances our presence in key markets and enables us to strengthen our service offering across Egypt, the Middle East and North Africa, providing for greater flexibility and opportunities to meet our customers' needs. By leveraging Safina's four decades of experience and local expertise, we aim to further optimize our operations, strengthen customer relationships, and drive sustainable growth."

Safina will be rebranded as Noatum Maritime Egypt in due course and be integrated into the Noatum Maritime ecosystem. Its founders will retain a minority stake in the business and continue to support the growth of the company.



Mark Drusch
COC, Qatar Airways Cargo

Qatar Airways Cargo:

Giving back to the world while
dominating the market

By R. Chandrakanth with inputs from Israr Ahmed



Qatar's national freight carrier is a game-changer when it comes to global humanitarian and animal rescue efforts. Its vision is clear—continue growing its business with massive investments in technologies and aircraft, while giving back to the world in its own little way.



perfecting the business of moving goods, animals and everything possible that needs to be transported by air. The highlight here is the primacy that Qatar Airways Cargo gives to humanitarian relief, setting aside revenue interests, and also in moving 'endangered' animals, an exemplary example of a caring airline.

In May this year, Qatar Airways Cargo, in coordination with Animal Defenders International (ADI) transported six young lions from the illegal wildlife trade, taking them safely to the ADI Wildlife Sanctuary in Johannesburg. Transportation of live animals by air may appear a walk in the park, but it isn't. It requires a top-notch airline's expertise and highly-skilled cargo specialists.

Genuine Care

Qatar Airways Cargo digs deep into its reserves, not just ensuring seamless transportation, but also seeing that the animals are not stressed and have a comfortable and relaxing journey. There is extensive planning, perfect coordination between different stakeholders, there are also standard operating procedures that are followed to the 'T', and there are professionals who genuinely care.

Heading the team of cargo professionals is Mark Drusch, its Chief Officer Cargo. Replacing Guillaume Halleux who left the role in September 2023, Drusch has been in the hot seat since January 31, 2024, a newbie in the cargo business, but an experienced and thorough airline management professional, whose stint as Senior Vice President, Revenue Management, Alliances and Strategy at Qatar Airways for almost 4.5 years, catapulted him to a higher role – to take the cargo business to the next level.

In fact, he states he was pleasantly surprised when the top management of Qatar Airways asked, 'Why don't you head Cargo?', a division which was running excellently well and during the Covid pandemic had done some exceptional work of moving medical supplies around the world.

"Though I have been in airline operations for many years, I did not have detailed understanding of the cargo market. Yet, Qatar Airways management was clear in its thinking of not bringing someone from another cargo airline and change things that were going smoothly. The management was firm on inducting someone from within, someone who knew how Qatar Airways functioned and someone who could take the cargo business to the next level," said Drusch.

"I had worked closely with all the colleagues during the pandemic and had built partnerships across the group, but I never ever considered the position, until they brought it up. I thought the offer was cool because it was an area that I was new to and that newness, the intellectual stimulation and the need to learn something new, excited me. I have been in Qatar Airways Cargo for six months now and I am absolutely loving it."

The world's aviation landscape has changed phenomenally with the dominance of the three Middle East carriers, known in aviation circles as ME3 (Qatar Airways from Qatar and Emirates Airline and Etihad Airways from the United Arab Emirates). They continue to excel even as they compete fiercely, the end result being unmatched service for the paying customer and powering the Middle East increasingly to become 'The Aviation Hub'.

This tag does not come easily. It has strong foundations in how the Middle Eastern airlines, particularly the ME3, have imbibed business planning, work ethic, professionalism, investment in people and technologies, and above all taken the right approach, the right mindset, leveraging their 'right location' on the East-West axis.

Caring Airline

In this cover story, **Air Cargo Update** focuses on one critical aspect of the airline business – cargo – and how Qatar Airways Cargo tops the charts,



Complex Cargo Operations

Drusch acknowledges that the cargo operations are far more complex and intricate business than the passenger side. "It is intellectually stimulating and the problems and solutions are far more complex and even faster paced. "I have been fortunate to be in a well-run organisation and the expert cargo team has been generous in educating me and helping me to understand the business, while accepting my perspectives. It has been a great experience for me. I am enjoying the hell out of it."

At the June 2024 Air Cargo China in Shanghai, Drusch and his team were present, showcasing the strengths of Qatar Airways Cargo.

In conversation with Israr Ahmed of **Air Cargo Update**, Drusch explained how Qatar Airways Cargo had carved a niche for itself in moving live animals and also how it was in the forefront of carrying humanitarian relief, working in partnership with the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, since 2020 and was 'keen on doing more for refugees.'

Commitment to return wildlife to their natural habitat

Asked about the challenges faced by Qatar Airways Cargo in transporting the young lions, Drusch explained, "It takes a lot of effort and logistics for our team to organise moving such large animals; from the logistics at the airports, loading and unloading the animals from the aircraft, to ensuring the correct cages and wellbeing of the animals are in place, but it is something we are all collectively very proud and passionate to be a part of."

Qatar Airways Cargo's 'WeQare Rewild the Planet' initiative is the airline's commitment to returning wildlife and endangered species back to their natural habitat, free of charge.

There are many challenges and great airlines are built around those which take challenges head on. "As regards animal transportation, the number one challenge is getting all of the permits from the destination country, then comes ensuring veterinarians to travel with the wild animals which need to be handled properly. People are putting their personal time in it and I am proud of the team. We want to do more on this front. It is very close to my heart and thanks to my colleagues, we make it happen," Drusch shared.

Under the 'WeQare Rewild the Planet' initiative, he adds, Qatar Airways Cargo has done Rhinoceros in the past. In 2018, it flew Eric, a 1,157 kilograms black rhino from San Diego Zoo in California to his new home in Tanzania, for the



Singita Grumeti Fund, a non-profit organisation carrying out wildlife conservation and community development work in the western corridor of the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania. Tanzania's newest resident, bred in the US was gifted to the United Republic of Tanzania by San Diego Zoo to bolster an important satellite population of critically endangered eastern black rhinos.

'We are here to help'

"We have not done as much as we had like to do," Drusch states and adds, "Lot of zoos, animal parks and private owners do not know about our animal transportation. We are here to help. We want to do more of this. I am dedicated to do this."

This kind of passion, this kind of commitment is not just from Drusch but the entire team at Qatar Airways Cargo which has the best state-of-the-art animal care facility in Doha. "I am really proud of the facility and how all my colleagues have put their everything, their understanding of what an animal goes through while travelling and taken care to make it stress-free and seamless travel for the

animals. The idea is to give a calming experience to these animals whether it is horses, chicks, fishes, dogs, cats, falcons, reptiles or the wild variety. The pallets are cushioned and so are the stables for the horses. We even play music and our team is always working on finding out which music helps. As regards the facility, it is not just the biggest, but the best. We are focused on all aspects of quality animal care."

There is no destination that Qatar Airways Cargo does not hesitate to transport animals, having 24/7 veterinarian service, capable of handling any situation.

Always Ready to Help UNHCR

On the geopolitical tensions around the world and the refugee-fallout, Drusch is kind of angry. "I don't care about politics. The fact that millions of people are displaced as refugees, it is a global shame. Qatar Airways Cargo is committed to humanitarian relief. If the UN needs to get supplies to any part of the world, we will put on the plane tomorrow. We have a partnership with the UN and we have told them, you need help, just call us and we are there to help displaced people and refugees, whatever it takes us to do that. It's a shame that children are going through such trauma. I don't want people to suffer. I have told my team, if we need to take capacity out to help displaced people or animals, we will do it. It is our job to make money elsewhere. We will

work extra hard to compensate by supporting refugees. That is my job and my team's job."

Coming to the cargo business, per se, Drusch mentions that the airline is seeing huge volumes of e-commerce, movement of high value cars, electronics, aerospace components, pharma, dangerous goods etc. "Mail is shrinking, while all other products are growing and I am not surprised."

India's Economic Miracle, Plans to Tap New Destinations

Awestruck by India's economic performance, Drusch adds "I have no idea when the economic miracle in India will stop. It is growing rapidly. India is super strong both inbound and outbound cargo. Anything out of Asia, whether North or South Asia, trade is booming which is good for the industry. It has got so many pockets of strength right now and I believe that air cargo is a key factor in global trade. Because of air cargo and global trade, your life would not be what it is. You get things in 48 hours from anywhere in the world. The fruits you get here in winter, the incredible variety of vegetables in your grocery store would not be possible, if we weren't bringing them from across the world. The salmon you get in Kuwait is from Norway, the pharmaceuticals in Chicago are from India, people don't realise how air cargo has been significantly contributing to global trade."

Exploring Secondary Markets

As the world's leading international air cargo carrier, Qatar Airways Cargo serves an extensive network of over 60 freighter destinations and 170 passenger destinations utilising freighters and belly-hold passenger aircraft.

Continuing its market leader position, the airline is always looking at new markets in Latin America, in India, in Africa etc. "We are looking at new destinations in India, a country which is doing phenomenally well. India is well balanced in terms of inbound and outbound trade. Some markets in Asia are heavily outbound, while there is the mix category too. We are looking at Venice, Edinburgh, Hamburg, and destinations in Mexico etc, what we call secondary markets. We can go to Edinburgh directly without touching London, we can connect Venice without going to Milan."

Shipping directly to these destinations makes a lot of sense, time and cost-wise to the freight forwarders.

Digital Footprint

It is not just destinations that Qatar Airways Cargo is interested in expanding, but also its digital footprint, making it easier for not just the company but also for the customers. "We lead the industry in terms of modernisation and digitalization. I want the average consumer to know the benefits of this. And there is so much more room for digitalization to grow. I am six months into the cargo segment and have got better sense what needs to be done as quickly as possible. We are refocussing the digital footprint and in the next 12 months, we should be able to roll out new features, leveraging the experiences and strengths of both passenger and cargo businesses," Drusch said.

In India, the airline has selected Octolooop by Cargo Flash as its digital cargo booking platform via its wallet services, starting with Delhi and Mumbai. This partnership is set to revolutionize the cargo logistics landscape, offering streamlined operations and increased efficiency for Qatar Airways Cargo by giving opportunities to incremental freight forwarders to connect with Qatar Airways Cargo and take advantage of its air freight services on the airline's extensive network.

Need to Invest More in Sustainability

With regard to sustainability, Drusch said the airline is clear in its vision of sustainable operations – it is two-pronged for the moment – in the short term, finding ways to reduce fuel burn on aircraft for which the airline is working hard, with partners, to find technologies. In the long term, the airline is in tandem with the State of Qatar which has taken the lead to produce sustainable fuels. "We are partnering with them and participating with them to help drive that goal. We are launching those first steps and we are cautiously optimistic of finding solutions in the next 10 years."

On sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), Drusch feels that either more capital needs to be invested to expand the production or we have to find the right solutions. "Today one gallon of SAF costs me four times of a gallon of gas. Who is going to pay for that is the question. We really need to have better solutions. Forget moving fancy cars, we need to move pharma, vegetables, essential products, animals etc. We must have better solutions. We need to invest in the future."

Quizzed about the status of the agreement Qatar Airways Cargo has signed with Dronamics, the world's first cargo drone airline with a license to operate in Europe, Drusch mentioned that Dronamics was working on the certification while 'we are working on the business plan'.

The interline agreement allows the extension of the delivery networks of both partners, significantly increasing their reach as well as providing access to areas previously hard to reach by traditional air freight. Through the agreement, Dronamics can offer cargo services from any of its droneports, initially in Greece, to the wider Qatar Airways Cargo network - including destinations such as Singapore, China, including Hong Kong, and the United States (JFK).

Qatar Airways Cargo has also launched Vision 2027, a roadmap that combines business-as-usual improvements and initiatives aimed at reshaping the future of air freight supported by close to 3,000 employees of the cargo carrier and its ground-handling partner, QAS Cargo.

Drusch concludes, "In the next four to 5 years, we have four broad goals to focus on – grow our fleet, including being the launch customer of Boeing 777X Freighter; massive investments in technologies (airplanes, warehouse design etc); build global partnerships; and give back to the world in our own little way."



Optimizing Warehouse Operations: The 'B&H' Approach

Since B&H Worldwide is exclusively focused on the aviation industry, the team understands the critical nature of grounded aircraft and tight maintenance schedules.

By Ayesha Rashid

Running a warehouse is a complex task that requires efficiency, smart technologies, highly skilled people, clean storage space, safety measures, precision and a lot of planning to run it smoothly and stay ahead of the game in this digital age where shipments and storage are crucial in global trade.

Imagine a warehouse where every task—from receiving stock to shipping orders—flows seamlessly.

This is the ultimate goal, and optimizing operations is key to achieving it. Mark McKenna, Regional Director (West) at B&H Worldwide, emphasizes the importance of a proactive approach to warehouse optimization.

In this article, McKenna shares insights with Air Cargo Update into B&H's FirstTRAC technology and how it empowers aviation customers with total control and visibility over their warehouse inventory.

Systematic Approach

Effective inventory management requires a systematic approach to overseeing and controlling the order, storage, and utilization of components essential for producing goods and services.

The aim is to maintain optimal inventory levels—avoiding excess stock while preventing stockouts.

Inventory management has evolved significantly over time. In ancient times, merchants relied on basic methods to track their goods.

As industries grew, so did the systems, progressing from manual counts to computerized solutions.

The 20th century saw major advancements with concepts like Just-In-Time (JIT) and automated inventory systems, laying the foundation for today's sophisticated platforms.

Modern systems like B&H's FirstTRAC offer real-time visibility and seamless integration with various processes, making inventory management in the aerospace sector more accurate and efficient than ever.

Mark McKenna

Regional Director
(West) at B&H
Worldwide



This evolution underscores the importance of technology in contemporary inventory management.

Reduced Shipping Times with FSLs

Customer expectations are changing rapidly, driven by the rise of e-commerce, where fast and reliable shipping is now the norm.

To reduce shipping times and enhance warehouse efficiency, forward stocking locations (FSLs) can be a game-changer.

"All of B&H's forward stocking locations (FSLs) operate around the clock, 24/7/365 and are strategically located in key aerospace hubs worldwide. Our cutting-edge inventory management platform, FirstTRAC, supports this continuous operation, helping us meet tight delivery deadlines," says McKenna.

Since B&H Worldwide is exclusively focused on the aviation industry, the team understands the critical nature of grounded aircraft and tight maintenance schedules.

"Our Aircraft on Ground (AOG) shipping operations are managed directly at each FSL, ensuring there's no delay from order placement to dispatch and shipping. Everything is handled efficiently on-site, thanks to our dedicated shipping teams," McKenna adds.

Enhanced Efficiency with FirstTRAC

With FirstTRAC, inventory levels, shipments, and orders can be tracked in real-time, enabling swift responses to changes and disruptions.

FirstTRAC's cloud-based nature ensures that critical information is accessible from anywhere, at any time, allowing for data-driven decisions, reduced errors, and improved overall efficiency.

"FirstTRAC is our proprietary inventory management platform designed to give customers complete control and visibility over their stock. This cloud-based global system manages logistics from start to finish, linking B&H Worldwide's operations teams with customers through near real-time data sharing," explains McKenna. From order placement to post-shipment reporting and analysis, FirstTRAC keeps everything streamlined.



"When items arrive at our FSLs, all relevant details are electronically recorded in FirstTRAC, including verification checks, condition assessments, trace documentation, and serviceable/unserviceable tags, along with photos of packaging and items from various angles. As items are dispatched, wall-mounted monitors display FirstTRAC's dashboard to help operators prioritise and meet individual customer requests and KPIs. Once orders are prepared, FirstTRAC integrates seamlessly with other logistics systems to manage shipping and provides detailed information on stock levels, shipping data, and KPI management," McKenna continues.

Electronic Recording, Verification and Condition Checks

Condition checks are critical for ensuring the quality and integrity of inventory.

FirstTRAC allows for electronic recording, verification, and condition checks, which reduce errors and improve overall efficiency.

McKenna notes that all premium products are accompanied by electronic check sheets confirming details such as piece count, trace documentation, and order and serial numbers of the received items. "These check sheets, along with all shipment paperwork and photos, are uploaded into FirstTRAC, enabling our customers to verify accuracy and inspect the condition of their items," he says.

Instead of cycle counting, B&H conducts thorough monthly stock checks, electronically scanning all inventory items. "FirstTRAC ensures no manual inputs are allowed during these checks, so discrepancies are quickly identified and corrected according to our standard procedures," he adds.

"At B&H Worldwide, we offer a full range of inventory management services, including receipting, shelving, storage, order picking, dispatching, and complete stocktaking. We also handle electrostatic discharge (ESD), hazardous goods packing, customer audits, and industry-specific audits such as ASA100 and AS9120b. Our services extend to aircraft engine transportation and storage, consulting, purchase order (PO) management, return order (RO) management, quarantine management, Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI) programs, kitting services, and airside deliveries," he noted.

Customized Services and Specialized Handling

B&H Worldwide has customized its services to meet the specific requirements of its customers. Examples include condition checks on outer and inner packaging, Foreign Object Debris (FOD) checks during receipt and dispatch processes and uploading photos and documentation into FirstTRAC to ensure full visibility and accountability.

"Hazardous areas in all our FSLs globally are properly defined and segregated, and dangerous goods (DG) packing services are provided at all our sites," explains McKenna. "Aircraft engine storage and handling is one of our specialties. We have the capability for long-term storage of aircraft engines as well as providing aircraft engine preservation services. For example, in humid environments or where climate control is unavailable, we offer a specialized solution in which engines are placed inside individual enclosures where humidity is tightly controlled and monitored, keeping the engines in excellent condition."

B&H also operates FSLs dedicated to aircraft tire storage, managing the distribution of new tires and the return of cores for retreading.

Ensuring Security and Integrity of Stored Inventory

Stored inventory is only as secure as the measures in place to protect it. Implementing robust security measures, such as 24/7 CCTV monitoring, secure access controls, and regular security audits, ensures the integrity of inventory.

"One of the most critical aspects of warehouse security is ensuring that personnel are trained to handle sensitive aviation inventory," says McKenna. "All of our locations are staffed by operators who are Aviation Security trained, as required by CAA,



TSA, and other regulatory bodies. Our sites have secure controlled access, utilize CCTV and alarm systems, and are temperature and humidity controlled to aviation standards where required. These conditions are recorded and managed in compliance with AS9120b requirements.”

B&H handles static-sensitive items using ESD equipment to ensure that assets are not compromised. “We use 'neat stacking' principles for items stored in racks and bulk areas, ensuring that all storage areas are clean, tidy, and aligned with no overhangs. We have tool control in place and apply FOD controls in all inventory areas. Any items that do not comply with our storage processes are placed into quarantine areas within the FSL, from which release can only be authorized by the customer,” McKenna explains.

Adapting to Evolving Demands and Regulations

B&H Worldwide prioritizes compliance and regulations.

The company's Group Head of Trade Compliance and QHSE ensures that the company remains up to date with regional regulations and holds weekly meetings with the Executive Team to review and update compliance matters.

B&H uses Denied Party Screening (DPS) software to protect both the company and its customers and performs Know Your Customer (KYC) checks on all new clients before initiating any business relationships.

To adapt to evolving demands, B&H Worldwide has a nimble management team capable of quickly developing business cases and making decisions. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, B&H set up two large warehouse operations in the USA within just 90 days—one to support an aerospace manufacturing production line and the other dedicated to repairs and line maintenance at a major airport. This quick turnaround demonstrates their ability to respond effectively to urgent needs.

“B&H has its own software engineering team, so we are not reliant on third parties to update and enhance our software. Because of this in-house capability, I am pleased to share two examples of how we provide solutions and cost savings within the aerospace supply chain. B&H Worldwide has developed a Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI) Program with one of our strategic OEM customers to simplify their supply chain, save costs, and ensure an uninterrupted supply for production. Over 30 suppliers are linked through FirstTRAC, with parts required for production stored in a central FSL to be called off at required production intervals, rather than coordinating individual shipments from multiple suppliers worldwide,” says McKenna.

While FirstTRAC is B&H's proprietary warehouse management system (WMS) used by most customers, the company understands that some clients prefer their own standalone systems. FirstTRAC integrates with a variety of inventory systems, allowing data to flow seamlessly in both directions. This enables customers to continue using their in-house systems while benefiting from FirstTRAC's capabilities.

B&H Worldwide is committed to continuous improvement, a core aspect of their AS9120b certification.

The company undergoes regular external audits by LRQA, a leading ISO certification body, and maintains rigorous internal audits and risk assessments through its Quality Management System (QMS).

The Continuous Improvement Manager at B&H oversees both internal projects and external consultancy for clients, demonstrating the company's dedication to evolving practices.

“Recently, we've enhanced our warehouse operations by re-evaluating our use of IT equipment, time spent on shelving and retrieving inventory, and management of slow- and fast-moving items. We also considered operator ergonomics and better integration of automated systems. As a result, we redesigned our warehouse layout, invested in automated equipment, and enhanced our FirstTRAC platform. These changes led to a 20% reduction in warehousing space, faster travel times, more efficient processes, and a decrease in health and safety risks by eliminating redundant manual tasks,” McKenna explains.

Employee training and development are also pivotal at B&H. The company provides extensive training on systems and AS9120b QMS procedures. This year, they are rolling out an 'Advanced Technical Training Program,' designed by B&H's Technical Training Manager, who has over 35 years of experience in aviation. The program includes FAA-certified courses on topics such as airworthiness, Part 145 legislation, and safety in operations. This initiative aims to deepen staff expertise and solidify B&H's position as 'Best in Class' in their field.



Sustainability and innovation, the future of airports

As the aviation industry continues to evolve, airports that prioritize sustainability and innovation will be better positioned to thrive in a changing world.

By R. Chandrakanth

Airports, as bustling hubs of global connectivity, play a crucial role in today's modern world. They are not just engines of economic growth but also a window of what an innovative future looks like in the digital era.

However, their operations often come with significant environmental costs, including greenhouse gas emissions, noise pollution, and resource consumption. As the aviation industry continues to grow, it is imperative that airports adopt sustainable practices and embrace innovative technologies and solutions to mitigate their environmental impact and ensure long-term viability.

With billions of passengers traveling across continents every year, combined with increasing volumes of cargo flown by air, it is crucial for airports to become drivers of change through innovation and sustainability.

Race Towards Net Zero 2050

The journey to net zero 2050 is riddled with challenges, but the aviation industry is not shying away. Airports, like airlines and other segments of the aviation industry, are investing time, resources and money in its race towards 2050.

Whether it is legacy airports or the new ones, they are all unidirectional – working towards sustainable operations. Sustainability is no longer a fad, but a necessity, if not for now but for the imminent future.

As the aviation industry continues to evolve, airports that prioritize sustainability and innovation will be better positioned to thrive in a changing world.

In this edition, Air Cargo Update delves into the sustainability and innovation practices of some of the biggest airports across the world. Read on

Changi Airport is switching to cleaner energy

It has been a 12-time champion, winning the coveted ranking of the Skytrax World Airport Awards.

Singapore's Changi Airport is simply the ultimate when it comes to how an airport should be – traveler-friendly, user-friendly operations, sustainable, highly innovative and above all, futuristic. Simply put, Changi is Changi. And it continues to lead on many fronts.



Jaisey Yip, Vice President of the Cargo Business Division at Changi Airport Group (CAG), spells out how the Group is focused on sustainable operations. From 2025, all new airside light vehicles, tractors, and forklifts will need to be electric, and all airside vehicles to be fuelled by cleaner energy by 2040.

To remain on top requires that much more effort and Changi Airport knows that and it continues to invest in innovation, technologies and people. Yip mentions how through innovation

and digitalization, Changi Airport hopes to achieve its four main goals – 1) Help improve productivity at the airport; 2) Use-cases meant to improve operational efficiencies; 3) Better supply chain visibility to the community; and 4) Ensure positive sustainability impact.

Innovation and digitalization need to align with objectives

“In the last few years, with the advent of new technologies, automation and innovation, air cargo is catching up. We are seriously looking on how to digitize certain processes. We are not investing in innovation or digitalization because it is a trend, but we look at concrete and clear use-cases and see whether it aligns with the objectives we hope to achieve.”

She mentioned how the airport is constantly engaged with different stakeholders and keeps reviewing different processes to ensure that there are improvements, benefitting all.

“For instance, we look at import and export process flow and at each touch point, we ask ourselves how we can harness automation/digitalization to achieve our objectives. At the import touch point, it starts with the ramp and ends with custom clearance. At the ramp, we have started electrification of ground service equipment and trialling autonomous tractors. At the warehouse level, we are closely working with cargo terminal operators on how to harness automation. For instance, dnata worked with a logistics technology solutions provider, Speedcargo, to install AI-enabled cameras at the truck dock level – when agents log in a shipment, the cameras scan the shipment by its dimension, etc. It gives precise calculations which helps in optimization of the pallets, benefitting both the airlines and the freight forwarders.”

Truck Dock Slot Booking, Optimizing Time

As dynamic as air cargo operations, Changi Airport is in sync. “On August 12, we rolled out as a community, a truck dock slot booking application, which allows cargo agents and truck drivers to book slots in advance before they turn up at the cargo terminals to pick up cargo or drop cargo. They have to link their shipments to the



slots, so that the ground handlers have advance information on who is coming in to collect what shipment. This process helps expedite the entire process flow, thus ensuring that trucks are not idle at the terminal.”

Similarly, the border control authority is innovating by getting advance information on goods that are coming in. “They are working with relevant stakeholders on paperless clearance process. We are optimizing each and every touch point.”

Giving utmost importance to information and data points, Changi Airport has streamlined many processes and reduced processing time. “We believe in connectivity, speed, track and trace and delivering shipments in the most reliable manner. We take pride in ourselves for what we do.”

Warehouse Digitalization

Citing how the airport has warehouse digitalization in place wherein algorithms calculate freight, optimize pallet and ensure there is no wastage in unit load devices (ULDs). “Our truck dock slot booking (TDSB) is designed to be AI-driven. It captures the arrival and departure of a truck. It is not based on ‘you said, I said’ but all based on a transparent system. Additionally, TDSB improves productivity by allowing businesses to allocate its manpower and resources more effectively.”

On sustainability, Yip mentions how the community (including the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore or CAAS) is coming together in their efforts to decarbonize aviation by adopting new methodologies of operation and new technologies. “Right now, we have undertaken a community drive – educating cargo agents, ground handlers and everyone else involved in the supply chain on improving sustainable operations. We are reducing the waiting time of trucks, thus, minimizing carbon emissions. Also, we are working on waste management and circularity – we are recycling wooden pallets, cartons, among many other things.”

Another key initiative the airport has taken is in the realm of pharma cargo movement and the airport CAG is a co-founder and Board Member of Pharma.Aero, a global cross-industry collaboration platform whose mission is to foster global partnerships among pharma shippers and CEIV certified airport communities.

The Group plays an active role in projects that address topical issues and challenges faced by the industry such as end-to-end visibility and sustainability. One initiative is the Green Air Pharma Logistics (GAPL) project, which sets out the building blocks of a Lane Sustainability Readiness Index (LSRI) as a tool to support pharmaceutical manufacturers and freight forwarders in integrating sustainability considerations into their freight procurement and lane assessment processes.

Such efforts also demonstrate CAG’s commitment to global sustainability efforts and the pursuit of green air logistics. “Sustainability is not one party’s responsibility, but everyone in the air cargo value chain,” Yip noted.



Hactl focused on IT Innovation to optimize supply chain

Hong Kong International Airport was ranked, yet again, number 1 as the world's busiest air cargo hub, thanks to its strategic location and state-of-the-art facilities, making it a central node in global trade, particularly for trans-Pacific and intra-Asian routes.



documentation, charter flight support and value-added logistics services.

Wilson Kwong, Chief Executive of Hactl talks to Air Cargo Update on digitalization and sustainability in air cargo business.

Is the Cargo sector slow in digital adoption, unlike the passenger segment, if so, why?

Many people make the mistake of comparing passenger business with cargo, and making unfavourable comparisons about their respective take-up of digital processes. The truth is, there is no similarity: cargo cannot speak, cannot adjust its travel plan en-route, and cannot run for the boarding gate. It is passive, pre-planned, and passes through the hands of multiple service providers such as forwarders, handlers, airlines and Customs authorities. Different types of cargo require different packaging and handling, different routes and different aircraft types. Cargo is subject to more intricate regulation. Cargo cannot call or text you to say it is running late. For a modern supply chain that requires seamless transfer of data, demands visibility of location and often condition, requires strict scheduling, and adherence to geo-specific regulations, and all at minimum cost, the task of digitalization is hugely complex and costly. Nevertheless, the industry has already made huge strides, but it's no surprise that more progress is still required.

What segments in the Cargo sector need immediate innovation and why?

There are players in every sector that need to do more. It is often not the small companies that are the problem: some larger companies are working with legacy systems that are expensive and difficult to

Hong Kong International Airport was ranked, yet again, number 1 as the world's busiest air cargo hub, thanks to its strategic location and state-of-the-art facilities, making it a central node in global trade, particularly for trans-Pacific and intra-Asian routes.

Year after year, Hong Kong has been excelling at what it does best – moving cargo from one part of the world to another in the most efficient way possible. There are eight entities—Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Ltd (Hactl); Carrier Liaison Group (CLG); Hong Kong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Ltd. (HAFFA); Hong Kong Customs & Excise Department (C&ED); Asia Airfreight Terminal Co Ltd. (AAT); DHL Aviation (HK) Ltd. (DHL); and Cathay Pacific Services Ltd., which drive the cargo business of the airport.

Topping the charts is Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminal (Hactl) which commenced operations in 1976 and has continued to perform every which way. In 1998, it opened a custom-built Super Terminal 1, designed to handle cargo in the smartest possible way, and that stands way ahead of most other terminals across the world, being the single largest air cargo terminal in the world. Its massive handling systems are the last word in automation and efficiency.

Its comprehensive facilities accommodate all kinds of cargo. Hactl is accredited under every relevant industry standard. It accommodates every type of aircraft and truly provides a one-stop-shop: terminal handling, ramp handling, crew transport,

replace, and incompatibilities that are sometimes the result of mergers and acquisitions. At Hactl, we have invested heavily for decades in IT innovation, and it has created an almost paperless business and paid huge dividends in efficiency, service enhancement, resilience and cost reduction. Our many initiatives have inspired others to follow suit, and helped drive the cause of innovation.

E-commerce is growing phenomenally, what kind of innovation is required to streamline operations and reduce costs, could you give specific examples?

Everyone in e-commerce is driven by what the end consumer wants – which is visibility and fast delivery, at minimum cost. That demands digital supply chains with no barriers to data transmission and sharing. Hactl's systems facilitate this, and we are able to integrate with external systems where they are also capable. Our Haxis HEx system provides all the data an e-commerce customer could want.

Artificial Intelligence is fairly new in the air cargo sector, what kind of potential do you see?

The air cargo industry as a whole is gradually embracing new AI-powered solutions to enhance efficiency, optimise logistics and improve overall service delivery. Potential uses include AI-driven automated warehouse management, flight route and schedule optimisation, cargo space optimisation, dynamic pricing models, enhanced security and surveillance, and AI chatbots and virtual assistants in customer service automation.

At Hactl, we have recently deployed several new AI-powered solutions. On operational efficiency, we have adopted a cloud-based AI OCR (Optical Character Recognition) service coupled with a vendor patented machine learning algorithm, to convert paper-based master airway bills into digital format. The process used to be manual, and susceptible to human error.

On security and surveillance, we have

deployed AI-based video analytic solutions to detect unauthorized terminal access and parking, with satisfactory results. More applications will be deployed in the future. Lastly, some of our cybersecurity solutions have now been upgraded with AI capabilities to more accurately detect abnormalities in computers and networks behaviour, helping us to identify possible cyberattacks much earlier.

High cost of technology acquisition, is that an issue?

It could be for some smaller operations where economies of scale do not exist, or for situations where bespoke solutions are required. But this should be balanced by the inevitable increase in off-the-shelf solutions, growing demand and accompanying reductions in cost.

Could you list 5 innovations the cargo industry cannot ignore?

Among recent innovations, we believe 5G, IoT (Internet of Things), AI/GenAI, heavy-duty cargo handling robotics and heavy-duty autonomous vehicles are particularly relevant to the cargo industry and have the greatest potential to automate essential cargo operations currently handled by human beings.

Recent technology developments are tending to combine the capabilities of multiple innovations. One example is an AI-powered heavy-duty autonomous vehicle equipped with 5G-enabled IoT sensors, which would be superior to a simple heavy-duty autonomous vehicle, especially in dealing with dynamic situations such as road congestion or accidents.





Bournemouth Airport: A regional player leading in innovation & sustainability

As the aviation industry continues to evolve, airports that prioritize sustainability and innovation will be better positioned to thrive in a changing world.

Bournemouth Airport in the South of the United Kingdom is a classic example of a regional airport with 'one stop shop' operations that has earned appreciation from the aviation community. It is a forward-looking airport, run by Regional & City Airports (RCA) which is about 90 minutes' drive from London and free of the congestion and traffic rights limitations of the big London hub airports. True to its regional structure, it has adopted innovation and sustainability that befits a regional airport, modern and yet not intimidating.

Bob Matharoo, Head of Cargo Development, Cargo First – Bournemouth, talks about Cargo First, the brand handling air freight operations at the airport, explains the pace of digital adoption in the air cargo industry, linking it directly to the customer. "Ultimately the pace of introduction of digitization, seen as a key lever for the development of new innovative services and solutions which drive efficiency in the air cargo

environment and offer incremental value to the end client, is customer driven. This said, the willingness of the air cargo sector to invest in adopting such new technology can be attributed to the growth and scale offered by e-commerce.

Explaining the need for digitization, he mentions that Cargo First has striven to strip airport processes to the core and has designed processes aimed at keeping things simple and delivering similar service optimization intended to eliminate bottlenecks at every stage.

"Streamlining operations is crucial for e-commerce success. This involves improving the key components like inventory control, warehouse management and order fulfilment. In order to achieve these objectives, it is critical to develop specialised integrated web-based logistics services which enable better management of shipping processed by air, sea or road. Such IT products include access to real time transport rates, track and trace, customs connectivity and live data at each stage of the movement.

"At Bournemouth Airport, we work with our air carriers to enable bespoke handling solutions where customer IT solutions are bolted into our handling operation to optimise the overall service offered."



Bob Matharoo
Head of Cargo Development
Cargo First – Bournemouth

On the high cost of technology acquisition, Matharoo reasons, "Again, a fundamental lever in terms of adoption of new (high cost) technology is the acceptance by those who will have to bear the cost that the business case is viable in terms of the scale of the opportunity."

While the e-commerce sector is offering up that scale, underneath that lies the cost benefit of innovation and automation which helps drive down the financial burden of any new technology – both in terms of delivering improvement in process rates as well as driving down errors in processing with the cost that incurs. The combination of these two factors is helping the industry justify implementation of new technologies.

Asked to list five innovations the cargo industry cannot ignore, he starts with artificial intelligence and other digitization followed by Automation including warehouse robotics; UAVs and autonomous vehicles; sustainability (whilst clearly a challenge to the industry, also offers opportunity to innovate); and New large aircraft technologies.

"Cargo First is committed to exploring the opportunities offered by a number of these emerging innovations and helping our clients understand how they can be best harnessed to offer tangible cost and service benefits for their air freight product to and from the UK."

Airport infrastructure is capital intensive, what are future airports doing to be sustainable?

The Aviation industry takes its sustainability obligations seriously. While capital development projects can be costly, we are equally determined as we are mandated by our government to deliver infrastructure projects that are environmentally sensitive.

Bournemouth Airport is currently undertaking a number of development projects which will deliver improved and expanded infrastructure both for passenger and cargo operations.

As well as incorporating environmentally sensitive building techniques, alongside this exciting development we're introducing all-electric Ground Support Equipment, building a solar/PV farm which will generate 100% of the airport's power needs in the future and enhancing the environment around the airport via management and improvement of wild heathlands which are under our ownership and which will never be developed.

While the larger hub airports may have constraints such as available land area for PV arrays or carbon 'sinks' (afforested areas, etc..) they typically have the benefit of much larger scale and profitability than smaller airports to be able to make

investments in infrastructure to become more sustainable.

The aviation industry is responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions, how can airports help in reducing the same?

It is a common belief across the industry that the future of aviation lies not just in connecting destinations but in doing so responsibly and sustainably.

At Bournemouth Airport, we have outlined the ambitious goal of achieving net-zero emissions across all our airport operations no later than 2040 - brought forward by a decade from the original 2050 target.



We are focused on curbing energy consumption, expanding renewable infrastructure and phasing out fossil fuel reliance across the airport.

As an example, our parent company Regional & City Airports is working with global travel company TUI and Cranfield University to investigate how to reduce the environmental impact of aircraft turnarounds at airports, including the use of hydrogen to power ground support equipment and significantly reduce the carbon costs involved. The study is part of the UK Civil Aviation Authority's Hydrogen Challenge.

Management of water, electricity and waste are critical for airport sustainability, could you indicate what kind of gaps exist in implementation across airports?

There are inevitably differences globally. As an airport in the UK, and common with our competitors in this particular country, Bournemouth has adopted clear strategies aimed at both responsible use of resources and also a process of continuous improvement when it comes to waste management.

We are subject to the same rules as other UK commercial businesses with regards reduction of non-recyclable waste and continue to work with the authorities here to minimise industry-specific waste (such as international catering waste).

Airlines are investing in Sustainable Aviation Fuel, are airports collaborating on this?

Yes, in the UK and Europe airports and fuel providers are mandated from next year to supply a percentage of aviation fuel as SAF (starting at 2% in 2025 increasing to 10% by 2030 and 22% by 2040). At Bournemouth Airport, we are excited at the prospect of developing supply both of SAF and other sustainable aircraft propulsion fuels (such as hydrogen) and all the benefits that it will offer.



Hong Kong International Airport: The world's busiest cargo airport



Hong Kong International Airport has been named once again by Airports Council International as the World's Busiest Cargo Airport in 2023, with a throughput of 4.3 million tons. This is the 13th time since 2010 that the airport received this coveted title.

In this Q&A, HKIA expounds on its innovative solutions and sustainable practices that sets it

apart from the rest when it comes to managing and operating the world's busiest cargo airport.

Taking Hong Kong Air Cargo Industry to a New Digital Front Tier

As one of the world's leading cargo hubs with extensive network, HKIA is dedicated to staying ahead of the digitalization trend and continuously enhancing its cargo operations excellence. Data and technological transformation are key pillars in the digitalisation of the air cargo industry, amid growing trends, such as AI, robotics, automation and more. To this end, in a strategic move to strengthen its leadership and thrive to the rapidly evolving e-commerce landscape, as early as in 2021, Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) has taken the lead to develop the HKIA Cargo Data Platform, an open and neutral community based digital platform for the Hong Kong air cargo industry.

The Platform is IATA One Record compliant and built on smart technologies



such as blockchain, smart contracts and mobile solutions to connect various stakeholders in the supply chain, including airlines, logistics providers, regulators, and screening facilities. Leveraging our synchronized and trusted network, operation processes are streamlined and automated with seamless communication and better cargo journey visibility. By facilitating real-time communication and data sharing, the platform reduces delays, and improves overall coordination. In addition, processed data can be capitalized into valuable insights and predictive intelligence which can ultimately driving for a more resilient and sustainable cargo supply chain and aviation hub of Hong Kong.

The Platform comprises various modules. Further to the launch of Hong Kong Export Module, GBA Export Module, and Greater Bay Area (GBA)'s Sea-air Transshipment Facilitation Scheme Application, the recent pilot launch of Hong Kong Air Import Cargo Collection Digitalization Application is another digital breakthrough. Under the Import Application, authorized personnel can retrieve their electronic Shipment Release Form (eSRF) off-site upon e-payment settlement and authentication. The Application is also equipped with the regulator portal with 'e-stamp' and 'e-queue' functions to facilitate the cargo inspection process before shipment release. This innovative solution unleashes end-to-end process streamlining and digitalization of import cargo collection journey at Hong Kong cargo terminals.

The Platform, which leverages on blockchain architecture, is future-ready to interact with diverse industries and

stakeholders globally in order to derive and jointly create more innovative business solutions and business prospects together.

Apart from digital air cargo development, HKIA has been implementing a multi-pronged strategy to reinforce HKIA's leading position as the world's busiest cargo airport.

The Novel Sea-air Intermodal Cargo Transshipment Initiative

Innovation does not limit to digital and technological adoption but cargo operation models. To strengthen the role of being an international cargo gateway connecting GBA to the world, HKIA has launched a novel cargo sea-air transshipment initiative.

This includes the establishment of the HKIA Logistics Park (HKIALP) in Dongguan, one of the most important manufacturing hubs in China, and a new airside intermodal cargo pier at HKIA. Under this initiative, security screening, palletization, and acceptance for GBA's export cargo can be completed in advance in Dongguan.

The cargo is then shipped seamlessly to the airside of HKIA by sea for direct air transshipment to overseas destinations. Vice versa, international shipments can also be imported to Mainland China via HKIA and the logistics park. When fully operational, the Logistics Park and the new model are expected to reduce operating costs by about 50% and handling time by about one-third. The pilot scheme has been operating smoothly with permanent HKIALP is now under planning. The permanent HKIALP will be equipped with state-of-the-art technologies, such as robotics, Internet of Things, and automated guided vehicles.

Embracing the Rapid Growth of E-Commerce

Foreseeing the high demand for e-commerce and express air cargo services, HKIA's cargo community has been expanding capacity to capture the opportunities backed by advanced technologies. The recent completion of the Cainiao Smart Gateway at HKIA, developed by a joint venture led by Alibaba's logistics arm, leverages automation and advanced data analytics to optimize sorting and distribution processes, significantly reducing operational costs and improving delivery times.

DHL also expanded its Central Asia Hub at HKIA in 2023, its annual handling capacity has been boosted by 50% to over 1 million tonnes. The expanded facility is equipped with improved technologies to ensure the highest level of efficiency including an upgraded material handling system and fully automated X-ray machines.

Additionally, the development of a new hub cargo facility by UPS, expected to be completed by 2028, will further enhance the airport's handling capacity and efficiency. Meanwhile, the construction of the Transit Mail Centre, targeted for completion by 2025, is underway to increase the airport's capacity for handling transit mail from Mainland China through Hong Kong to the world.



BANGALORE AIRPORT'S GREEN THEME

Several airports have taken the lead and it warms the cockles of the heart when new airports are not just aesthetically designed, but are so user-friendly and so caring about the environment that one can spend hours (in case of long layovers) without getting stressed.

Hari Marar writes, "From implementing best practices to introducing cutting-edge technology or launching innovative services and exploring unique concepts, the airport is taking strides in driving sustainability initiatives that envision economic, social and environmental transformation." Terminal 2 of Bangalore Airport has been recognised as the largest terminal in the world to be pre-certified with a Platinum LEED rating by US Green Building Council.

The terminal employs numerous sophisticated sustainable innovations, including extensive solar shading and intelligent building systems that include engineered fire-retardant bamboo, used for the first time in India. The terminal is designed to capture, treat, and reuse rainwater from across the airport, and the indoor plantings and outdoor gardens are designed to utilise



water that is harvested on-site.

As a potential biodiversity hotspot, a total of 620 endemic plants, 3,600+ plant species, 150 palm species, 7,700 transplanted trees, 100 varieties of lilies, 96 lotus species and 180 rare, endangered and threatened species and 10 ecological habitats make up the lush green landscape around Terminal 2. While that is pleasing to the eye, the airport has invested in innovation and technology to ensure a simplified, seamless and effortless experience.

'Airports of Tomorrow' Initiative

Realising the role of airports in the journey of decarbonization of the aviation industry, the Airports Council International (ACI) and the World Economic Forum in June 2023 launched the 'Airports of Tomorrow' initiative – built on four pillars – Infrastructure, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), Finance, and Innovation – that will each see the exchange of expertise and knowledge sharing, development of tools and guidance, and advancement of advocacy.

ACI World Director General Luis Felipe de Oliveira said: "The ACI World Economic Forum Airports of Tomorrow initiative will help airports transform from passenger hubs into energy hubs. It is an exciting time for airports: the energy transformation presents them with an opportunity to further lead and change the future of aviation for the better.

"Decarbonization is a critical global issue that requires a global response. With the support from governments and the collaboration of stakeholders along the aviation ecosystem, including energy producers, policymakers, and the finance community at large, together we can make the net-zero airport transformation a success story, while enhancing a sustainable and resilient future for the Airports of Tomorrow."

"We see airports as strategically located epicentres of activity, where leaders from across the aviation ecosystem can convene and work together to transform the industry," said Lauren Uppink, Head, Climate Strategy, World Economic Forum. "If the right planning and investment decisions are made today, airports can play a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future for aviation as well as other transport sectors. The Airports of Tomorrow initiative will help airports harness these opportunities, enabling them to fulfil their potential as clean energy hubs and standard-bearers for the net-zero economy."



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Amplify Cell Technologies begins construction of Mississippi battery cell factory

With up to \$3 billion investment, the joint venture between Accelera, Daimler Trucks & Buses US Holding LLC and PACCAR, will begin battery cell production in 2027 and is expected to create more than 2,000 US manufacturing jobs.

As the race for cleaner fuel and energy steps up, a new battery cell manufacturing plant is being built in Mississippi, Massachusetts, in the United States.

In July, Amplify Cell Technologies, a joint venture between, Accelera, Daimler Trucks & Buses US Holding LLC and PACCAR, broke ground at its new battery cell manufacturing plant in Marshall County, Mississippi.

The 500-acre site will be home to a two million square-foot, energy efficient facility with an annual manufacturing capacity of 21-gigawatt hours (GWh) for the production of lithium-iron-phosphate (LFP) battery cells. Amplify plans to begin battery cell production in 2027 and is expected to create more than 2,000 US manufacturing jobs.

Kel Kearns, CEO of Amplify Cell Technologies, commented, "United in the mission to decarbonize our highways and interstates, our founding partners are making a serious commitment. Marking the start of construction on site signifies this collective effort, and together we will lead the transformation of the commercial transportation industry."

Leaders from Accelera, Daimler and PACCAR were joined by State of Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves, U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, and local officials to celebrate the groundbreaking.

"Mississippi is incredibly excited to welcome this historic private sector investment from the new joint venture between Accelera, Daimler Truck, and PACCAR," Governor Tate Reeves said. "This



project is the largest payroll commitment in state history, and it will bring an incredible 2,000 new jobs to this community. This fantastic investment from these industry leaders will help to further charge Mississippi's electric economy."

"As the transportation industry evolves and energy demands grow, it's crucial that we have American facilities producing the materials and technologies necessary to meet those needs. This joint venture is not only a major job booster for Mississippi, but sets an example for future endeavors in the transportation industry. I am thrilled to see this project take off, as it will increase competition in the market, boost the local economy, and provide jobs for our state," said Senator Hyde-Smith.

"This project will change thousands of lives in North Mississippi," Senator Roger Wicker added. "Major development decisions are never made lightly, but Mississippi was chosen for this investment for a reason. Our business-friendly climate is attracting investment at a record level. I expect this trend to continue and look forward to more economic development groundbreaking ceremonies in our state."

The new facility will produce LFP battery cells, a cell chemistry chosen for its durability and cost-effectiveness. This initiative will localize the battery supply chain, making it more robust and responsive to the needs of the growing electric commercial vehicle market in North America.

Accelera, Daimler Truck and PACCAR have committed a

combined \$2 to \$3 billion investment in this joint venture and each own 30 percent of Amplify Cell Technologies. EVE Energy serves as the technology partner with 10 percent ownership and contributes its industry-leading battery cell design and manufacturing expertise to the venture.

EVE Energy is a global technology leader in the manufacture of LFP battery cells for the vehicle industry. The partners are committed to lead the commercial vehicle industry's transition to zero-emissions technologies and reducing carbon emissions consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement.

Daimler Truck Holding AG ("Daimler Truck") is one of the world's largest commercial vehicle manufacturers with more than 40 main locations and more than 100,000 employees worldwide.

Accelera provides a diverse portfolio of zero-emissions solutions for the world's most economically vital industries, empowering them to accelerate the transition to a sustainable future.

A business segment of Cummins Inc., Accelera is both a components supplier and integrator, focused on batteries, hydrogen fuel cells, e-axes, traction motors and inverters, integrated powertrain solutions, and electrolyzers. It currently has operations in North America, across Europe and in China.

PACCAR, meanwhile, is a global technology leader in the design, manufacture and customer support of high-quality light-, medium- and heavy-duty trucks under the Kenworth, Peterbilt and DAF nameplates. **Source: www.daf.com**





DAF joins international platform for booking charging stations

DAF Trucks announced it has joined HDV Booking, a consortium that is working on establishing a platform for reserving public charging points for trucks in Europe. The move will further increase the availability of fully electric DAF trucks, particularly for long distance transport.

HDV Booking is a new consortium that includes providers of charging facilities, card reader systems, transporters and software developers. It is working on a platform that will enable transporters to find and reserve available charging points.

This will facilitate the most efficient planning and routes for electric vehicles. Improved planning of loads will help limit waiting times and make longer distances possible, including international routes. HDV Booking aims to be operational throughout Europe in 2026.

DAF transition partner for businesses

"An optimal booking system requires all electric vehicles, as well as charging points and planning software, to be connected to each other," according to Bart Bosmans, Director Marketing & Sales and a member of the Board of Management at DAF Trucks. "The ability to take factors like traffic congestion and the driver's rest periods into consideration will lead to more optimal use of both the public

charging infrastructure and electric vehicles."

With its XD and XF Electric, DAF offers the perfect trucks for long distance transport, thanks to a zero-emission range of up to 500 km. This can be increased to 1,000 kilometers a day by charging the battery packs during the driver's break, for example. "Access to more information on the availability of public charging stations is an important step in increasing the availability of electric trucks for long distance transport," emphasizes Bart Bosmans. "DAF's decision to team up with HDV Booking underlines our position as a partner in the energy transition. After all, in addition to a full range of electric trucks, we also offer our customers charging stations and specialized advice and training."

London: A new Driver Security Guide to increase the safety and security of truck drivers facing an escalation in criminal attacks in the Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) region has been launched by the Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA).

The 24-page Guide is available to download free of charge from the industry Association's website—<https://tapaemea.org/standards-trainings/trucking-security-requirements/drivers-security-guide/>

It is published in 15 languages: Arabic, Bulgarian, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Ukrainian. It discusses the supply chain security environment and its associated risks and highlights the importance of communication with law enforcement and company management when incidents of cargo crime or suspicious activities that could impact cargo security occur.

To help drivers to understand these risks, TAPA EMEA outlines regular types of threats and attacks by criminals targeting supply chains in the Europe, Middle East & Africa region, including:

- **Intrusion, robbery & theft**
- **Deception**
- **Hijacking**
- **Illegal migrant entry**
- **Last Mile vehicle crime**
- **Cybercrime & information security leak**

With over 80% of recorded cargo thefts in EMEA involving criminal attacks on trucks, risks to drivers have been growing

TAPA EMEA launches Driver Security Guide to protect truck drivers facing rising security threats and attacks



exponentially in recent years. TAPA EMEA hopes the new Guide will help to prevent as many future attacks from happening as possible.

“As well as highly publicized truck driver shortages, especially in Europe, we also see a growing realization by the current driver community that their personal security is at risk. Protecting drivers, therefore, must be a prime objective for all supply chain stakeholders because criminals also understand the vulnerability of trucks and drivers when they are en route or in parking locations.

“This new Guide is available in languages which reflect the main nationalities of the driver community in our region, and we hope it will make a positive difference to their security,” said Markus Prinz, Senior Manager Standards, Training & Certification.

The Guide also offers advice to drivers on the best responses to each type of incident and looks at the important role Monitoring & Response centers play in ensuring the safety and security of drivers, vehicles and cargoes during the transportation process.

Most significantly, the TAPA EMEA Driver Security Guide provides a list of emergency contact numbers in 29 countries in Europe for law enforcement agencies and emergency/ambulance services to help drivers and companies respond immediately to security or health incidents.

India plans transition to zero-emission trucks by 2050 with 17 million trucks on its roads by then

New Delhi, India: Bent to reduce threats to the environment from rising road-based freight transportation, India, the world's most populous nation, aims to transition entirely to zero-emission trucks in more than two decades, the government's Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor has announced.

According to the “Indian Zero Emission Trucking Policy Advisory”, India will have an estimated 17 million trucks on its roads by 2050 if economic growth continues at its present pace.

“This growth in freight transport, however, poses a serious threat to the environment. To achieve India's Net Zero target by 2070, it is essential to complete the transition to zero-emission trucks (ZETs) by 2050,” the detailed advisory on the new policy stated as reported by the Emirates news agency WAM.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the government, said: “The induction and wider adoption of ZETs require technical expertise and systematic policy interventions to create an enabling techno-socio-economic ecosystem in India.”

Hanif Qureshi, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Heavy Industries, said 30 policy interventions have been designed to accelerate the electrification of trucks all over India.



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Etihad Airways reports 48% increase in profits to AED 851 million in H1 2024

Abu Dhabi, UAE: Etihad Airways posted a 48 percent increase in profit in the first half of the year after tax achieving AED 851 million (U.S.\$ 232 million), a significant increase from AED 575 million (USD 157 million) in H1 2023, highlighting the airline's continued focus on growth coupled with optimizing operational efficiencies.

Total revenue increased 21 percent to AED 11.7 billion (U.S.\$ 3.2 billion), from AED 9.6 billion (USD 2.6 billion) in H1 2023, mainly due to passenger revenue, which saw a 24 percent year-on-year increase, reflecting strong demand fueled by strategic network expansion and increased flight frequencies, consequently further improving connectivity.

There was also a notable 10 percent increase in cargo revenue compared to the same period of 2023, primarily driven by higher demand and higher cargo capacity of the fleet.

Etihad carried 8.7 million passengers over the first half of the year, up 38 percent year-on-year, which is approximately three-times higher than IATA's reported average growth rate of 13 percent for Middle Eastern carriers in the same period. The average passenger load factor stands at 85 percent for H1 2024 and remains unchanged compared to the first half of last year.

Operational efficiencies continued to improve with decreasing unit cost from the same period last year, with CASK (cost per seat kilometer) and CASK ex-fuel reduced by 5 percent and 8 percent, respectively. At the same time, overall passenger experience improved, continuing the trend of increased customer satisfaction since consolidating operations in the new terminal.

Antonoaldo Neves, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Aviation Group, said: "We are pleased to report a strong first half of the 2024 financial year, with profit after tax 48 percent higher than the net result reported in the same period of 2023. This reflects a robust performance in both passenger and cargo revenues, demonstrating the soundness of our strategy and growth path.

"We are bringing six A321neos into operation this year, equipped with advanced CFM LEAP 1A engines. In the next 18 months we expect to add more than 20 new generation aircraft to our fleet, which offer reduced emissions and up to 20 percent more efficiency compared to previous models. I extend heartfelt gratitude to our people, whose hard work and dedication in the air and on the ground, working together for a purpose, have been instrumental in achieving these results."

His Excellency Mohammed Ali Al Shorafa, Chairman of Etihad Aviation Group, said: "Etihad's 8.7 million passengers in the first half of the year accounted for over 63 percent of the total 13.7 million passengers at Zayed International Airport from January to June 2024. This total represents an approximate 34 percent increase in passenger numbers through the airport compared to the first half of 2023, highlighting the key role the airline plays in boosting Abu Dhabi's tourism and trade."



Etihad Cargo's organizational restructure

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, meanwhile, has announced a comprehensive transformation of its organisational structure to further enhance customer experience, support business development, and drive continued growth.

The transformation has restructured Etihad Cargo's global network into four regions managed by newly appointed Directors: South Asia and Oceania (SAPAC, India, Vietnam, Australia) led by Bernard Lee; North Eastern Asia (China, Hong Kong and Macau, Korea, Japan, Taiwan) led by Jacqueline Han Lin Ni; Europe and Americas (North Europe, Central Europe, South Europe, UK and Ireland, Americas) led by Rainer Krammer; and Africa, Middle East and CIS (GCC, UAE, Africa, Levant, CIS) led by Grant Kemp.

Officials said this regional segmentation is designed to enhance capabilities in key markets and bring the organisation closer to its customers, allowing for more effective and tailored responses to specific requirements.

To enhance customer service and satisfaction, the carrier is further developing its Customer Experience Department. Led by Lubna Allaham, this dedicated department will improve the customer journey with additional customised customer-centric solutions.

Etihad Cargo will also strengthen its sales team and reinforce its commitment to the UAE market with the appointment of Rayan Alhaddar to the new role of Senior Manager Business Development Cargo Manager.

Stanislas Brun, Vice President Cargo, commented on the transformation: "Etihad Cargo is committed to building strong partnerships to achieve mutual growth and success. This new structure will enable Etihad Cargo to work even more closely with its customers and better understand their specific needs. With the appointment of new regional managers and senior leaders, I am confident that the team is well-equipped to deliver exceptional results and drive the continued success of Etihad Cargo. This ensures our services and products are aligned with customer expectations, delivering a superior experience for all."

Dr. Nadia Al Bastaki, Chief People and Corporate Affairs Officer at Etihad Airways, added: "This new organisational structure underscores the vital importance of the Cargo division to Etihad's vision and ambitious plans for growth. By enhancing Etihad Cargo's regional capabilities and focusing on customer experience, the carrier is not only improving its service offering but also reinforcing its commitment to being the air cargo partner of choice. Etihad is confident that this new organisation will drive the cargo division's continued evolution and success, fully aligned with the airline's core values."



flyadeal participates in Hajj and Umrah forum in Egypt

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: flyadeal, one of the youngest and fastest-growing low-cost airlines in Saudi Arabia and across the Middle East, has participated in the leading annual Hajj and Umrah Forum in Egypt as a key air service provider of pilgrim travel to the Kingdom.

Hosted at The Nile Ritz-Carlton Cairo, the two-day exhibition welcomed more than 3,000 travel and tourism professionals, showcasing products and services offered to groups planning their pilgrimages.

Rakan Alotaibi, flyadeal Head of Sales, Hajj & Umrah and Commercial Regulatory Affairs, said: "This was an important event that brought together industry professionals and travel suppliers specializing in pilgrim travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We had the opportunity to share information with visitors about flyadeal, our products and dedicated on-the-ground support services in the Kingdom. Additionally, the event offered us a platform where we reaffirmed our commitment to offering affordable low-cost travel focused on service excellence."



The event included participation from airlines, hotels, Hajj and Umrah ground service operators, as well as tour companies and travel agents that have dedicated pilgrim travel services.

As part of flyadeal's continued efforts to support religious traffic from Egypt and countries across the world to the Kingdom, the airline works closely with travel partners to facilitate year-round pilgrimages to Saudi Arabia with convenience and comfort being at the heart of its operations. Cairo is one of the major international destinations served by flyadeal with dedicated routes to Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam.

In its second year of dedicated Hajj operated flights this summer, flyadeal flew over 35,000 pilgrims from Africa, the Middle East and Asia to the Kingdom, representing a 35 percent increase compared with 2023.

flyadeal currently operates a fleet of 33 Airbus A320 family aircraft from bases in Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam covering a domestic and international route network of almost 30 destinations across Saudi Arabia, the Middle East, Europe and North Africa.



Wizz Air Abu Dhabi celebrates the arrival of new aircraft to serve the very best destinations in the region

The national airline is ramping up operations to meet high demand, unlocking more affordable travel opportunities for tourists and residents throughout multiple continents.

The additional aircraft will enable Wizz Air Abu Dhabi to enhance frequencies and drive ambitious growth into new territories with must-see travel destinations for adventure lovers. The airline serves a plethora of both business and leisure travel destinations, including vibrant cities and natural paradises across Central Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

"We are committed to carrying the flag of ultra-low-fare travel to culturally rich destinations, creating exciting opportunities for people looking for hassle-free travel experiences. The new aircraft will provide an additional thirty thousand ultra-low-fare seats per month, making travel available for everyone and enable us to expand our network with a plethora of incredible leisure, historic and cultural experiences," said Johan Eidhagen, Managing Director of Wizz Air Abu Dhabi.

"Our exciting recent expansions and additional frequencies highlight the strength and variety of our network and we are proud to liberate lives through affordable travel. We look forward to seeing you on board our new aircraft soon for a well-deserved vacation."

Passengers can book tickets with confidence, thanks to WIZZ Flex. With WIZZ Flex, passengers can cancel their flight up to three hours before departure without any fee and receive 100% of the fare immediately reimbursed in airline credit.

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, the ultra-low-fare national airline of the UAE and the second largest airline in Abu Dhabi by seat capacity, has announced the addition of its newest aircraft to serve its ever-expanding network.



Iraqi Airways renews contract with SITA to modernize passenger processing and baggage systems

minute automatic updates on changing flight departure or arrival times.

Munaf Abdulmunem Ajel, Chief Executive Officer at Iraqi Airways, said: "Iraqi Airways is committed to implementing advanced solutions that enhance its daily operations by providing more efficient, reliable, and secure services. This commitment guarantees our global leadership in the aviation sector."

Baghdad, Iraq: Iraqi Airways has renewed its partnership agreement with SITA, the leading provider of information technology services in the air transport sector, to maintain its track record of continuous innovation in passenger and baggage management systems, boosting the travel experience on board the Green Bird and its partner airlines.

Key in upgrading the travel experience will be the implementation of SITA's Flex Hybrid system which will speed up passenger processing at Baghdad and Basra airports, providing staff quick and secure access to airline systems and applications through cloud infrastructure with high flexibility and scalability to meet fluctuating demand.

Iraqi Airways will also boost its baggage management capabilities with SITA Bag Manager Online, which offers advanced visibility of each bag's journey. The solution tracks every bag that is loaded onto a plane, a ULD, or a cart, matching each bag with departing passengers, tracking them in real time throughout the airport, and ensuring they are loaded onto the correct plane, offering passengers peace of mind and allowing staff to focus on more complex tasks.

Finally, SITA's Information Display System will revamp the airline's flight display systems, with a sleek interface that keeps travelers fully informed with down-to-the-

Hani El Asaad, President, Middle East & Africa, SITA, commented: "We are delighted to collaborate with Iraqi Airways, an industry leader renowned for its commitment to innovation and excellence. Data and connectivity remain the backbone of our industry, and ensuring fast, secure, and reliable connections is crucial for optimizing airline operations and improving the passenger experience. This partnership marks a significant milestone in the evolution of air travel technology in the Middle Eastern region, exemplifying our dedication to transforming travel and transport through cutting-edge solutions."

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Ethiopian Airlines Group to build Mega Airport City 4x Bole International Airport's size



Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew, left, and Dar's Director of Operations in Ethiopia Tariq Al-Qanni, right, shook hands following the signing of their technical advisory agreement in connection with Ethiopia's vision to build a mega airport city. Supplied Photo

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Ethiopian Airlines Group, Africa's leading airline, is building a Mega Airport City which can accommodate as much as 110 million passengers a year, four times the capacity of the country's current main gateway, the Bole International Airport.

The Mega Airport City will feature a 1.1 million sqm terminal including passenger facilities, 126,190 sqm of airline support facilities, and over 100,000 sqm of cargo and airport support facilities. It will also include an associated airfield and other essential airport infrastructure.

Ethiopian signed in August a technical advisory and consultancy contract with Dar Al-Handasah Consultants (Shair and Partners), a partner with the world-renowned signature architects Zaha Hadid Architects, to embark on the design and supervision of the Mega Airport City to be built at Abusera in Bishoftu city.

This state-of-the-art airport city, located just 40km from Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, is poised to revolutionize air travel in Ethiopia. Upon completion, the new airport is projected to have the capacity to serve 110 million passengers each year, which is four times the current capacity of Bole International Airport.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew, announced the Mega Airport City project, highlighting its role in establishing Ethiopia as a global aviation hub.

"The project will not only enhance connectivity but also drive economic growth and prioritize

environmentally responsible practices in our country and beyond, reflecting the airline's commitment to innovation and sustainability. With its exceptional capacity and world-class facilities, this new airport promises to elevate African aviation and strengthen partnerships, marking a significant advancement for the region's air travel infrastructure," said Tasew.

Dar's Director of Operations in Ethiopia Tariq Al-Qanni, stated, "We are privileged to be collaborating with Ethiopian Airlines on this visionary new airport, which will provide vital global air connectivity, accelerate economic growth in Ethiopia, and elevate Ethiopian Airlines into Africa's most strategic and most competitive aviation group."

In its first phase, scheduled to be completed in 2029, the contract is set to position Ethiopia as the leading global gateway to Africa capable of handling 60 million passengers, almost three times the number of passengers registered in Africa's busiest airport in 2022.

The new airport is positioned at a lower elevation compared to the current primary hub, Addis Ababa, situated at one of the world's most elevated locations, presenting unique operational challenges for aircraft. The architectural team will incorporate elements of Ethiopian heritage to establish a new emblematic structure for the nation – a people-centric, intuitive airport characterized by sustainability, resilience, and future-readiness.

Munich Airport welcomes 50 millionth passenger on flights to and from the US

Munich, Germany: Long-haul non-stop flights between Munich Airport and destinations in the USA have undergone an enormous development and are continuing to grow.

When the airport opened in 1992, there were 39 departures to five destinations each week. Today, there are 140 departures to 14 different airports. On 26 August 2024, the airport recorded the 50-millionth passenger to travel on the non-stop service to the United States since the airport was established.

Lufthansa, American Airlines, Delta Airlines and United currently offer non-stop flights to and from Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Detroit, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Newark, New York-JFK, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington-Dulles. Lufthansa operates four daily flights to Boston, Los Angeles, New York and Washington with the Airbus A380.

Seven destinations are served several times a day from Munich: Chicago up to three times and twice a day to Charlotte, Denver, Newark, San Francisco and Washington-Dulles. New

York-JFK is also served twice, three days a week.

44,000 seats are available per week and per direction, and the seat occupancy rate is currently more than 90 percent. In 2023, the threshold of three million passengers per year in non-stop traffic with the USA was exceeded for the first time, while since June 2022, the monthly number of passengers has been higher than in the pre-pandemic year of 2019. In July 2024, more than 355,000 passengers flew to and from destinations in the USA.

Royal Air Force of Oman getting a number of helicopters from Bell



Muscat, Oman: The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) is getting a number of new helicopters

from Bell Textron Inc. to develop and enhance its capabilities.

Bell says the Royal Air Force of Oman has chosen their helicopters for their unmatched versatility and performance. They were also described as perfectly compatible with RAFO's operational needs and community services, making them a valuable addition to the fleet.

"The Royal Air Force of Oman's addition of this helicopter to the fleet serves as a testament to its search-and-rescue capabilities," said the Chief Commercial Officer of Bell Textron Inc. "The aircraft is an easily configurable platform that provides vital support to military forces."

In a statement, the Royal Air Force of Oman said the acquisition is part of the country's air defense modernization and development program.

"The selection of this aircraft is due to its flexibility and effective performance that suits the needs of the Royal Air Force of Oman, and because it will constitute another addition to serve the national tasks and duties undertaken by the weapon, in both operational or developmental, especially those related to community service," part of the statement reads.

Royal Aeronautical Society inks aerospace partnership agreement with IET and IMechE

London, UK: The Royal Aeronautical Society (RaeS) has formalized on 24 July 2024 an Aerospace Partnership with Terms of Reference (TORs) between the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE).

RAeS is the only global organization serving the entire aviation, aerospace, and space communities as both a learned society and a professional engineering institution.

In a statement, the institutions said the Aerospace Partnership will harmonize the strengths of the three organizations in devising and implementing joint activities to support the aerospace community and wider aerospace industry.

The partnership will support further collaboration on aerospace engineering initiatives and events, strengthen joint engagement with government and industry, and recognize joined up efforts amongst all parties in supporting the sector. Full transcript of the TORs can be found here.

The Aerospace Partnership will relaunch with a



joint webinar on cyber security in aviation on 26 September 2024 to discuss the challenges of safeguarding the digital electronic systems that are essential to flight safety, maintenance, air traffic systems and customer experience.

Colin Sirett FRAeS, and Chair of the Learned Society Board, commented: "The RAeS welcomes this joined up approach with IET and IMechE that will consolidate our existing relations with both institutions and provide a mechanism to enhance our collaborative efforts for the benefit of the entire aerospace engineering ecosystem."

Stephen Phillips, Chair, Aerospace Board, IMechE said, for his part, said: "I am delighted that the cooperation between the IMechE, RAeS and IET within the Aerospace Partnership is being formalised today which will lead to the continued collaboration on learned society events, STEM, and a consistency in messaging on aerospace policy and technology to the benefit of our members, the industry, government and the wider public."

Jonathan Watson, Vice Chair of the Aerospace Technical Network, said: "It makes perfect sense for the aerospace communities from RAeS, IMechE and IET to work closely together. The combined efforts of our communities add value to our IET members, and those working in the aerospace industry and support our shared objectives of raising awareness and bringing public benefit."

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Bali International Airshow 2024: Industry giants back Indonesia's strong debut of first airshow after 30 years

JAKARTA, Indonesia: After 30 years, Bali International Airshow is making a grand return to Indonesia, backed by major international aerospace companies, highlighting the country's growing importance and influence in the global aerospace and defense sectors.

The event will take place from 18 to 21 September 2024 at the Ngurah Rai International Airport featuring global aerospace and defense giants, including Airbus, Bell Helicopters, Boeing, Brahmos, Dassault Aviation, Embraer, Garuda Group, Leonardo (represented by Helitech Asia - Asia-Pac distributor), Lion Air, MBDA, PT Dirgantara Indonesia, Textron Aviation, and Thales.

The airshow is a crucial step in Indonesia's journey towards becoming a regional hub for aerospace innovation and defense technology. Among the expected dignitaries are top defense officials, ministers, and industry leaders from over 20 countries, including: Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Timor-Leste, South Korea, Australia, India, USA, Japan, New Zealand, China, Papua New Guinea, and Turkiye.

"The aviation landscape in Indonesia is on an upward trajectory, with a projected annual growth rate of 5 percent in the aircraft fleet over the next five years and Indonesia is estimated to be the 4th largest aviation market in 2037. The Ministry is delighted to be in full



Officials and executives behind the return of the Bali International Airshow 2024 after 30 years gather for a photo to celebrate the event's historic milestone. Supplied Photo

support of the Bali Airshow 2024, which will further reinforce this growth and our position on the global stage," said Mr. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs, Indonesia.

The Bali International Airshow 2024 will feature 16 static displays from commercial aircraft to military aircraft such as the F16 Fighting Falcon, Sukhoi SU27, C130J Super Hercules, CASA C212, EC275, and Embraer EMB314 Super Tucano among others.

The airshow will also showcase two cutting-edge aircraft: the F-35A Lightning II from the Royal Australian Airforce and the Airbus A400M from the German Air Force. This highlights strong support from strategic countries to this event.

Pertamina, Indonesia's major energy company, is also playing a vital role in supporting the event as its title sponsor, with focus on promoting sustainable aviation practices.

Qatar Airways Group acquires 25% stake in Airlink

Doha, Qatar: Qatar Airways Group has acquired a 25% stake in Southern Africa's premier independent regional carrier, Airlink, accentuating Qatar's quest to further develop its operations across the African continent.

The investment in Airlink – which flies to more than 45 destinations in 15 African countries – will enhance a code-sharing partnership between the two airlines. The deal will bolster Qatar Airways' Africa growth strategy and cement its role as a key driver to the continent's economic success.

On the announcement, Qatar Airways' Group Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, said: "Our investment in Airlink further demonstrates how integral we see Africa being to our business' future. This partnership not only demonstrates our confidence in Airlink, as a company that is resilient, agile, financially robust and governed on sound principles, but also in Africa as a whole, showing huge potential that I am delighted we are able to help start realizing."

In a statement, Airlink Chief Executive Rodger Foster said: "Having Qatar Airways as an equity partner is a powerful endorsement of Airlink and echoes our faith in the markets we currently serve and plan to add to our network. This transaction will unlock growth by



Airlink Chief Executive Rodger Foster, left, with Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, during the historic signing ceremony for Qatar's 25 percent acquisition of Airlink. Supplied Photo

providing efficiencies of scale, increasing our capacity and expanding our marketing reach. By bolstering Airlink and its business, this investment will strengthen all of the existing airline partnerships Airlink has nurtured over the years."

The partnership between Qatar Airways and Airlink seeks to align both carriers' loyalty programs - Qatar Airways Privilege Club and Airlink Skybucks.

Qatar Airways currently flies to 29 destinations in Africa, and there's been strong growth in the market with new destinations added to the Qatar Airways network on the continent since December 2020. Abidjan, Abuja, Accra, Harare, Kano, Luanda, Lusaka, and Port Harcourt are the African cities newly added to the extensive Qatar Airways network, while Cairo and Alexandria were resumed.



Kale Logistics Solutions welcomes new CFO and Chief Innovation Officer

Mumbai, India: Kale Logistics has appointed Shripad Inamdar as the company's new Chief Financial Officer and Sanjeev Madavi as Chief Innovation Officer.

Inamdar has over 20 years of SaaS and IT expertise and will primarily drive Kale's digitalization projects and international expansion. His first priorities will be to automate workflows to increase efficiency across Kale's expanded operational scope and strengthen its global compliance framework.

Inamdar also brings extensive executive-level financial expertise from complex, multinational organizations. His experience ranges from consulting to IT industry as a qualified chartered accountant, managing turnovers of USD200 million and working for big fours for nearly a decade.

"Kale is taking-off in even more directions for both customers and investors across the world and I think with my diverse professional experience I am ready to play a key role in this journey," said Inamdar.

Madavi, meanwhile, has nearly 30 years of experience in digital transformation and innovation in international supply chain and logistics industry. In his new role, he will lead Kale's continued expansion into multimodal community platforms, aiming to enhance and

develop new services that complement the company's flagship Cargo Community Systems (CCS).

His focus will be on addressing the evolving needs of the logistics community by introducing value-added services that further streamline and synchronize CCS platforms, transforming them into more adaptable and unified sources of data.

"My passion for leveraging technology to drive innovation aligns perfectly with Kale's digital products, which are instrumental in transforming supply chain and logistics facilitators into global integrated communities. I look forward to advancing our offerings in this dynamic industry," said Madavi.

Vineet Malhotra, Co-Founder & Director, Kale Logistics Solutions, commented, "Sanjeev will be a tremendous asset to our leadership team. His philosophy of 'Agility with Outcomes' resonates with our core values at Kale as we continue to deliver solutions that are not only efficient but also future-proof and agile."

Rajesh Panicker, COO, Kale Logistics Solutions, separately commented, "We are excited to have Inamdar join us to further our ambitious plans for this and coming years as we continue to revolutionize the global logistics industry with our innovative deep tech."

Kale currently has a global presence across USA, Canada, Colombia, Netherlands, Republic of Congo, Kenya, UAE, India, Malaysia, and Japan.



Sanjeev
Madavi



Shripad
Inamdar

COREX Logistics appoints new CEO to expand global growth



Steve Healy

Dublin, Ireland: Clinical trial and pharmaceutical logistics specialists COREX Logistics has named Steve Healy as its new CEO as the company looks to accelerate its global growth, expanding its operations and services.

Healy has more than 20 years of extensive expertise and leadership experience working within the pharmaceutical logistics sector with focus on commercial pharmaceutical

distribution and clinical trial supply chains.

In his new position, Healy will oversee the long-established company's vision for further future internationalizing of the business with expansion into new markets, and continued development of operations in its traditional markets across Eastern Europe and Asia.

"I welcome the trust the company has in me to lead the next phase of COREX's journey. We will continue to evolve as a business and build on the company's proven success to further develop our operations in patient centric services to meet the continually changing complex needs in clinical trials," said Healy.

COREX Logistics Founder, Andrey Tarakanov, who will remain in the business to focus on specific projects, welcomed the appointment adding: "I am delighted Steve will be leading us through the next stage of our significant global growth. His experience in the specialist sector and deep understanding of our customer's complex requirements mean he is the right leader to create substantial lasting growth for the business going forward."

With extensive knowledge of Good Distribution Practise and complex temperature-controlled supply chain solutions, including airfreight, road freight and specialist courier services, Healy held previous leadership roles with va-Q-tec, Peli BioThermal and DGP Intelsius. He has worked with pharmaceutical companies, central labs, and CROs to improve their logistics operations and supply chains.

He also worked with public sector institutions in the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and other public health initiatives.

2 Saudia representatives appointed to IATA's Advisory Councils

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: Saudia, the national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, has announced the appointment of two members of its senior leadership team to the International Air Transport Association (IATA)'s influential advisory councils.

Faisal Sabbagh, Executive Vice President of Finance and Services at Saudia Group, has been appointed to the Industry Financial Advisory Council, while Abdulgader Attiah, Chief Data and Technology Officer at Saudia Group, has been appointed to join the Digital Transformation Advisory Council.

The advisory councils focus on identifying innovative solutions to advance the aviation sector and provide recommendations for qualitative initiatives in key areas including digital



transformation, security, aviation safety, and sustainability.

Engr. Ibrahim Al-Omar, Director General of Saudia Group, serves as an elected member of IATA's Board of Governors, the highest legislative body within the organization. In addition, he holds positions in both the Chair Committee and the Nominating Committee, playing a crucial role in overseeing and guiding IATA's strategic direction.

With these new appointments, Saudia's representation in IATA's advisory councils has now reached six members across six of the association's nine councils. Previously, Captain Mohammed Dahduli, Vice President of Safety, Aviation Security and Quality at Saudia, was appointed to the Security Advisory Council; Marwan Niazi, Vice President Commercial Saudia Air Cargo Company, joined the Cargo Advisory Council; Mohammed Alsaied, General Manager of Strategies and Legal Compliance, became a member of the Legal Advisory Council; and Dr. Saleh Bukhari, General Manager of Sales and Distribution Strategies, was appointed to the Distribution Advisory Council.

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Upcoming Events



Volare International Airshow

Volare International Airshow features a range of activities, including live demonstrations, interactive displays, technical conferences, and panel discussions. Attendees will have the opportunity to witness the capabilities of cutting-edge aircraft, experience virtual reality simulations, and explore the future of aerospace technology. Volare International Airshow will connect the global aviation & aerospace industry to Italy by providing manufacturers and suppliers a platform to showcase their products and services to a global audience. The event hosts a mix of business, general, commercial aviation, and aerospace exhibitors on a 100,000 sqm static area, accommodating more than 100 aircraft, and will include an extensive conference program featuring keynote speeches, panel discussions, and interactive sessions.

03-05 October, 2024, Italy

World Financial Symposium (WFS) & World Passenger Symposium (WPS)

The joint IATA World Financial Symposium and IATA World Passenger Symposium event is where airline retailing, finance and passenger experience unite to create a dynamic platform for strategic exploration, actionable insights, and transformative innovation. The next edition of WFS & WPS will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. THAI Airways will host this year's event.

"On behalf of Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI), it is my great honor to welcome all of you at the 2024 IATA World Financial Symposium (WFS) and World Passenger Symposium (WPS) and we are delighted that Thailand has been selected as the venue for this important gathering," said Chai EAMSIRI, Thai Airways Chairman Executive Officer.

"In response to the market's rapid recovery and increasing travel demands, THAI aims to explore all possible sustainable strategies to further strengthen "Bangkok" as one of the leading global aviation hubs. This meeting would be a showcase to enhance positive contribution for travel industry."

30-31 October 2024 Bangkok, Thailand

Dubai Helishow

Dubai Helishow is the only dedicated event in the Middle East for the Helicopter and Manned-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Technology & Operations industry. Launched in 2004 under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, this is a perfect platform for the international VTOL community to meet and interact with prospective customers including State delegates and trade visitors from the MENA and Indian Subcontinent region.

22-24 October 2024 | SkyDive Dubai, UAE

Air Cargo Forum 2024

The nonprofit group The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) will once again host the Air Cargo Forum which brings together industry leaders to tackle issues and trends affecting the sector.

People from a wide range of services and solutions from the entire industry are expected to participate at this event: Airlines & Airports; Road, Rail, Sea and Air Logistics Services; Freight Forwarders; Logistics Providers; Cargo Handling Companies; Supply Chain Management Companies; IT Solution Providers

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11-14 November 2024

Miami Beach Convention Center

The MEBAA Show 2024

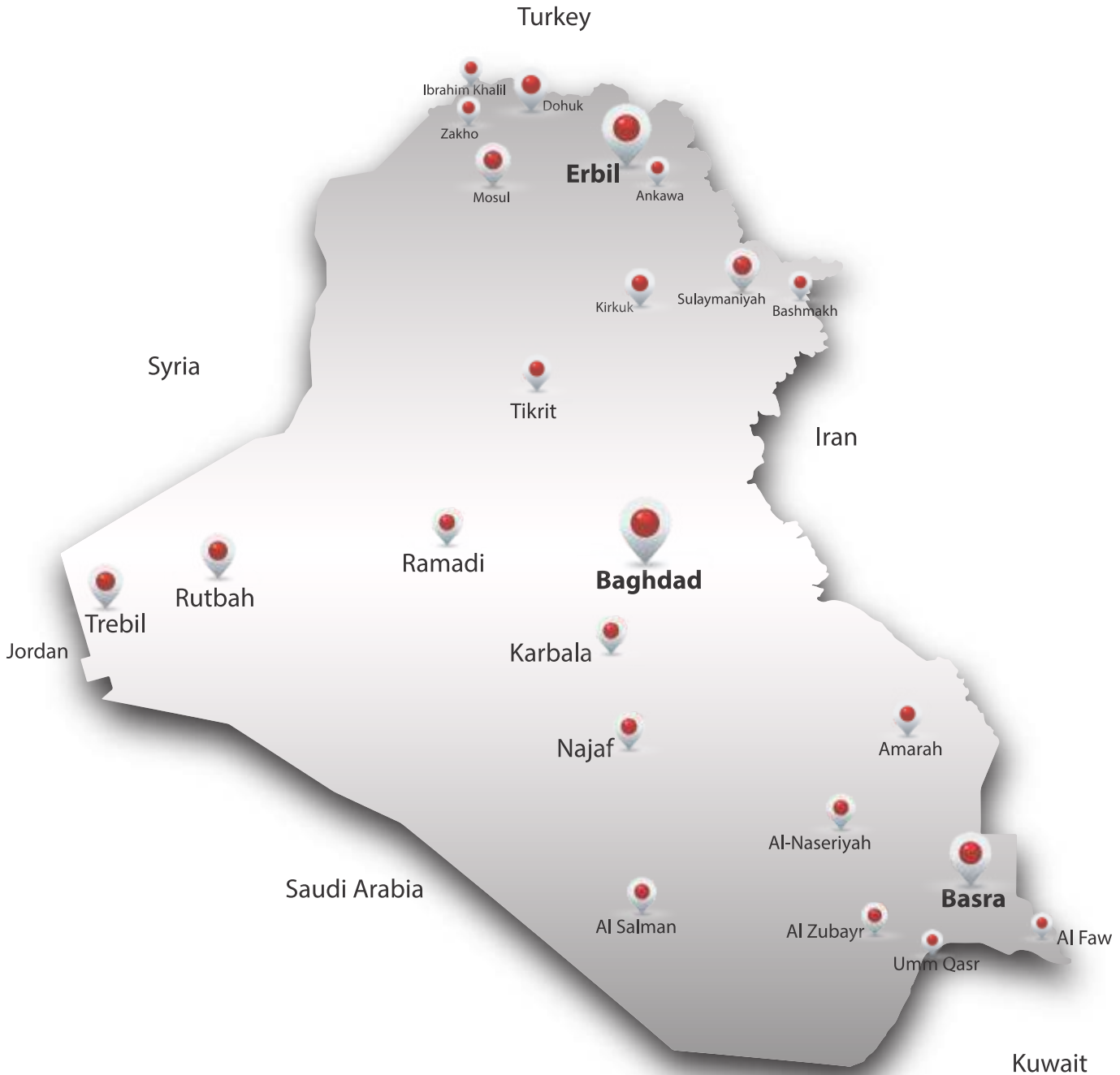
Held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group. After the success of the re-invented 2022 edition, MEBAA Show 2024 returns this December with even more business and networking opportunities. 2022 saw the launch of insightful content on the show floor through our BizAv talks, a tailored operators meeting programme, and multiple platforms for our exhibitors to meet with UHNWI highlighting synergies with luxury lifestyle and business travellers.

December 10-12 DWC, Dubai



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