Emirates SkyCargo launches direct host-to-host connection with Kuehne+Nagel

Lufthansa Cargo equips a fourth freighter with CO2-efficient AeroSHARK technology

Saudia Cargo receives IATA's CEIV Pharma certification

Etihad Cargo to host third Ace Conference in the Middle East
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NEOM and DSV Establish US$10 Billion Logistics Joint Venture

- Multi-billion-dollar leading logistics company to provide a full suite of ground, sea and air logistics services.
- The partnership will focus on the logistics services need for NEOM, with unprecedented demand growing the JV and adding value to the local economy through services and jobs.
- The JV will drive innovation leveraging existing R&D efforts and further push commercialization of new solutions and technologies.

NEOM and DSV announce a US$10 billion exclusive logistics joint venture to support the development of the ambitious projects taking shape in NEOM, Saudi Arabia. The partnership will focus on providing logistics services for NEOM in the coming years.

Under the agreement, the joint venture will provide end-to-end supply chain management, development and investments in transport and logistics assets and infrastructure as well as transport and delivery of goods and materials within NEOM.

NEOM will hold 51% of the joint venture with DSV holding the remaining 49%. NEOM envisions unparalleled demand for construction logistics through to December 31, 2031, with sustained growth in non-construction logistics thereafter. In addition to its impact on the logistics landscape, the venture is expected to boost the Saudi economy, through infrastructure development and creating more than 20,000 job opportunities.

Nadhmi Al-Nasr, CEO of NEOM, said: “This partnership not only shows the reality of NEOM and its vision, but also the private sector’s level of confidence to join us on this journey. The projected demand in both construction and non-construction logistics will make NEOM one of the largest customers in the world, and this partnership allows NEOM to create value from its demand. Working alongside one of the world’s leading logistics companies, the joint venture with DSV will build an expertise and know-how to drive innovation and sustainability throughout the logistics value chain. The economic benefit to this partnership will not only provide tens of thousands of jobs, but it will also enable growth to capture local and regional market share. It’s a living example of Saudi Vision 2030 in action, fostering job creation and building a future-leaning economy.”

Jens Bjorn Andersen, Group CEO, DSV, said: “NEOM is one of the largest and most complex projects in the world. It provides a unique opportunity for DSV to support a development that is at the forefront of innovation, technology and digital transformation. DSV already has a strong presence in Saudi Arabia, and this is a significant growth opportunity for us in the region and we look forward to working with NEOM Company and bringing our logistics capabilities to the table.”

NEOM and DSV are committed to driving innovation and will allocate a portion of the JV’s revenues to foster the development of groundbreaking technologies and commercialize new sustainable next-generation logistics solutions. The vision extends further by establishing a dedicated innovation center at NEOM.

The new joint venture is a significant milestone demonstrating NEOM’s commitment to revolutionizing Saudi Arabia’s logistics sector, and paves the way for pioneering sustainable logistics solutions, marking a new chapter in its journey towards realizing Vision 2030.
Special air cargo verticals see continued growth in 2023

Wiremind is bringing next-level AI to its cargo products in 2024

Air Cargo Demand Up 1.5% in August, First Annual Growth Since February 2022

IATA Secures More Data Contributors for CO2 Connect

Cargo carriers faced multiple challenges to business growth in 2022, a year that presented a dramatically different operating landscape to 2021

Dronamics to use hydrogen fuel cell propulsion for its drone aircraft

MSC Air Cargo adds Milan flights and reveals plans for new connections

A350F — production launch at Aerostructures and Premium Aerotec

Turkish Technic becomes the world’s biggest ACT Suite customer

ACL Airshop expanding its reach during the “Air Cargo Southeast Asia” symposium in Singapore

A sneak peek inside Amazon’s new aircraft that will transport more packages with each flight

Aberdeen International Airport named Hub of the Year at National Transport Awards
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Maersk has inaugurated a new 130,000 sq ft airfreight import/export gateway near Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) as part of its North American air freight capacity expansion programme.

Maersk, which launched Maersk Air Cargo in April last year, said the LAX gateway allows for "more supply chain integration opportunities" and "better scaling to care for seasonal peaks", as well as "market-driven volume spikes" for new product launches.

The gateway offers direct planeside recovery with immediate unit load device (ULD) transfers.

The facility joins Maersk’s North American network of air cargo gateways, including Atlanta and Chicago.

The new facility is 15 miles from LAX and less than nine miles from the Port of Long Beach. Site staffing will be in place for the conduct of customs brokerage, commercial sales, and freight operations such as LCL transload.

The site is also a US Customs bonded Container Freight Station (CFS) and a US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Certified Cargo Screening Facility (CCSF).

The facility is also scheduled to attain Free Trade Zone status in 2024 to benefit from “lower duties, reduced processing fees, and faster movement of goods”.

John Wetherell, regional head of airfreight, North America, said: “Our new Los Angeles air hub positions Maersk for years of growth. LA is a self-managed air facility that has tripled our access to capacity on the U.S. West Coast. Our customers will benefit from higher service levels and greater warehouse capacity.”
Lufthansa Cargo equips a fourth freighter with CO2-efficient AeroSHARK

Another Lufthansa Cargo Boeing 777F equipped with AeroSHARK technology entered service. This is the fourth freighter to be equipped by Lufthansa Technik with the technology since February this year.

AeroSHARK is a functional surface film that imitates the microscopic structure of shark skin. It reduces the aerodynamic drag on the fuselage and engine nacelles of the Boeing 777F, resulting in significant fuel and emissions savings. This technology, jointly developed by Lufthansa Technik and BASF, will be successively applied to Lufthansa Cargo’s entire fleet of 777 freighters, making them more fuel efficient and reducing emissions. As with the previous modified freighters, Lufthansa Technik expects fuel savings of about one percent. Calculated over Lufthansa Cargo’s entire 777 fleet, this will save more than 4,000 metric tons of kerosene per year and thus almost 13,000 metric tons of CO2 emissions. This corresponds to about 53 cargo flights from Frankfurt to Shanghai.

- Modified 777 freighter returned to service October 13
- Entire fleet to be equipped with shark skin technology by the end of 2027
- One step closer to achieving full CO2 neutrality by 2050
Emirates SkyCargo launches direct host-to-host connection with Kuehne+Nagel

Providing direct access to its market-leading products and services and extensive global network, Emirates SkyCargo is now available on Kuehne+Nagel’s internal booking engine. This milestone marks the first time Emirates SkyCargo has made its services available via a freight forwarders-owned portal, a strategy that further elevates the airline’s world-class customer service experience.

Through this direct host-to-host connection, Emirates SkyCargo streamlines the booking journey for Kuehne+Nagel agents, providing access to the airline’s schedules, rates, and available capacity in real time. The connection was first launched in Switzerland and Austria and will open up to users in select countries across Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Oceania by the end of the year.

Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo, said: “This partnership is a testament to our long-standing digitalisation strategy, which aims to enhance our customer experience, streamline operations and drive greater efficiencies. By creating direct pathways for customers such as Kuehne+Nagel to connect with Emirates SkyCargo, we can optimize the booking process and reinforce our relationships across the logistics ecosystem.”

Initially, the service will be available for general cargo, with the possibility of adding other Emirates SkyCargo’s class-leading product solutions in the near future.

“The special coating significantly reduces the frictional resistance of the aircraft. Together with the lightweight cargo equipment we already use today, this technology will enable us to save 5,493 tons of kerosene per year. This is an important step on our way to becoming 100 percent CO2-neutral in the air by 2050,” said Ashwin Bhat, CEO of Lufthansa Cargo.

By 2027, all 777 Freighters will be coated with AeroSHARK and the entire 777 fleet will be integrated into Lufthansa Cargo’s global network of scheduled services. Modification of the next aircraft will begin in August 2024 during the regular maintenance layovers.
Qatar Airways Cargo Relaunches its Mail solution in time for World Post Day

The cargo carrier sets new standards and introduces key enhancements to its Mail product.

In recognition of World Post Day, Qatar Airways Cargo announced the relaunch of its Mail product. As part of the relaunch, the product offers a comprehensive suite of customisable services designed for both traditional and hybrid postal modes – Express Mail, Priority Mail, Standard Mail, and Empty Mail Receptacles. The Mail product meets the stringent regulatory standards set by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

One of the enhancements for the product includes 100% EDI (electronic data interchange) that is rolled out at over 110 stations, with all stations equipped with handheld Android scanners. Traditionally serving one customer per origin based on their unique post office identification (IMPC) code, the carrier’s Mail product can now cater to the requirements of targeted agents across the network. This allows Qatar Airways Cargo to accept mail shipments from multiple customers from the same origin, regardless of the IMPC code used.

The award-winning cargo carrier also has specialised support teams in place with experience in mail allocations, pricing policies, sales, and account management who ensure the privacy, efficiency, safety, and security of all mail shipments. The carrier’s customers are also able to perform real-time tracking of their consignments right from the start until the end.

Miguel Rodriguez Moreno, Head of Cargo Products at Qatar Airways said, “Our unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence in airfreight services is at the heart of this new Mail product. With our extensive global network spanning over 160 destinations including more than 70 freighter destinations, our aim is to provide a comprehensive solution. We are also fully prepared to facilitate paper-free initiatives for Postal Authorities when electronic CN/CP documents are available. Combined with hassle-free billing and reconciliation through IATA PASS and PARIS, as well as swift ramp transfers in Doha, we are confident that our Mail product will deliver exceptional value to our customers.”

With a dedicated airmail facility in Doha, spanning an impressive 4,900 square metres and a staggering daily handling capacity of up to 500 tonnes, equivalent to 15,000 mailbags per day, Qatar Airways Cargo offers its customers state-of-the-art technology, advanced tracking solutions, and EDI capabilities deployed at over 110 stations, each equipped with handheld Android scanners. These advancements allow the carrier to seamlessly share Responses to Documents International transport advice (RESDiT) for critical milestones during a mailbag’s journey. The facility is also equipped with an inhouse screening facility, advanced X-ray scanners, Explosive Detection Dog (EDD), and Explosive Trace Detection (ETD) capabilities.

Qatar Airways Cargo is constantly innovating and investing in its products to offer optimal customer experience. The relaunch of the Qatar Airways Cargo Mail product is in line with the air cargo carrier’s VISION 2027. This meticulously designed, innovative solution, in alignment with international regulations, is poised to contribute positively to the postal and mail transportation industry.
Qatar Airways Cargo commenced freighter operations to Warsaw, Poland, effective 1st October 2023. Operating once a week to the capital of Poland, Qatar Airways Cargo offers 100 tonnes of weekly cargo capacity on its dedicated freighter, each way.

Warsaw is currently the only station served by the airline in Poland with ten weekly passenger services. The addition of a dedicated freighter service from Warsaw will increase the total weekly cargo capacity to more than 200 tonnes. With the launch of freighters, businesses in Poland benefit from direct main deck freighter capacity for their imports and exports. The majority of the imports and exports consist of general cargo and perishables.

Elisabeth Oudkerk, SVP Cargo Sales and Network Planning said, “Qatar Airways Cargo has been serving Eastern Europe for many years and is very pleased to announce freighters to Warsaw which will complement the passenger flights to this important city. The launch of this service will provide consistent and reliable freighter operations between Poland and Qatar”.

Qatar Airways Cargo has a large footprint in Eastern Europe and currently serves 7 destinations in the region, offering both passenger and freighter services. In addition to Warsaw, Qatar Airways Cargo provides structural cargo capacity to and from Budapest, Prague, Bucharest, Zagreb, Belgrade, and Sofia. A customer welcome event was held to celebrate the freighter’s arrival which was attended by Qatar Airways Cargo management, Warsaw airport officials, and customers.

The addition of the freighter service, in combination with passenger flights, increases the weekly cargo capacity to more than 200 tonnes from Warsaw.
Thai Airways bolsters growth as it continues its partnership with CHAMP’s Traxon cargoHUB

Thai Airways has renewed its contract with CHAMP’s Traxon cargoHUB, strengthening a partnership that is supporting its operational growth. Aligned with Thai Airways’ high standard of service, Traxon cargoHUB improves its supply chain quality and completeness whilst remaining up-to-date with the latest industry requirements.

Thai Airways benefits from being part of the largest air cargo community, with digital access to more than 4,000 freight forwarders and stakeholders throughout the supply chain, enabling collaboration with all community players via a single system regardless of data format or protocol.

“Continuing the partnership between Traxon cargoHUB with Thai Airways has allowed us to continue to streamline our processes and bolster our growth. With CHAMP’s solutions supporting us, we can offer an effective, efficient and reliable data exchange,” says Chirachet Chanawiset, Head, Cargo & Mail Commercial at Thai Airways. “As we continue our partnership, we look forward to seeing more of these benefits in our daily operations as the company continues to grow and evolve.”

“It is wonderful to renew CHAMP’s ties with Thai Airways,” says Nicholas Xenocostas, Chief Commercial Officer at CHAMP Cargosystems. “Our swift and highly secure service continues to support Thai Airways as it continues its growth.”
CHAMP Cargosystems and Metamaze collaborate to launch CHAMP A2Z Scan, transforming Air Waybill data capture and comparison

Leveraging the power of machine learning, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) to streamline time-consuming document processing.

With more than 60 million Air Waybills (AWBs) typed and compared by hand, CHAMP Cargosystems has partnered with Metamaze to launch A2Z Scan to digitalize the processing of paper Air Waybills reducing the average human error rate and generating time savings of up to 80%.

CHAMP A2Z Scan was designed to give airlines and ground handling agents (GHAs) the ability to bypass this time-consuming manual labour, instead uploading digital AWBs to a specially designed AI scanner, which turns the image into text and compares the data automatically.

Boosted by CHAMP’s open neo cargo platform and leading API program, CHAMP A2Z Scan automatically looks up any corresponding AWB data in your cargo management system – such as Cargospot – and automates the comparison between the two. The system then highlights any discrepancies for manual adjustments.

From these manual adjustments, the AI software compiles new information that it can apply to future AWB scans, reducing the need for future manual corrections.

“We are delighted to have partnered with CHAMP Cargosystems on this joint venture,” says Jo Cijnmans, partnership manager at Metamaze. “Together, we have created a solution that is future-proof for our customers, significantly freeing time and resources for their day-to-day operations.”

“CHAMP and Metamaze had a joint vision to enable our customers to scan all documents travelling with each shipment and have it all automatically processed by artificial intelligence,” says Lucas Fernandez, VP Innovation and Insights at CHAMP Cargosystems. “Through our collaboration, our customers have an efficient and innovative solution that no longer requires manual data capture, enhancing the way they operate.”
Etihad Cargo has appointed Giridharan Srinivasan to the role of Area General Manager – Indian Subcontinent, reinforcing the carrier’s commitment to this key region.

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has appointed Giridharan Srinivasan to the role of Area General Manager – Indian Subcontinent. Based in Bangalore, Srinivasan will report directly to Latha Narayan, Etihad Cargo’s Director East Cargo Commercial – APAC, Australasia, and Indian Subcontinent. He will be responsible for establishing new and further developing existing relationships with Etihad Cargo’s customers based in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and the surrounding region.

Giridharan Srinivasan joins Etihad Cargo with over 17 years of logistics experience, five of which have been within the aviation sector. During his career, he has held leadership positions spanning sales, business development, client relationship management, and operations. Srinivasan has also demonstrated leadership skills that have nurtured and retained talent within growing teams, enabling organisations to deliver service excellence through a customer-centric approach.

Narayan said: “Etihad Cargo is delighted to welcome Giridharan to the team. His appointment further reinforces the carriers’ commitment to the Indian Subcontinent, strengthens Etihad Cargo’s commercial team in the region, and positions the airline for further growth in this key market. I am confident Giridharan’s knowledge, expertise, and passion for delivering world-class solutions will contribute to Etihad Cargo’s ambitious long-term growth plans for the Indian Subcontinent, further cementing the carrier’s position as the air cargo partner of choice for Etihad Cargo’s customers in this region.”

Commenting on his new role, Srinivasan said: “I’m thrilled to join Etihad Cargo and be a part of the carrier’s exciting expansion plans in this region. Over the last few years, Etihad Cargo has added depth to its Indian Subcontinent network and has continued to enhance its products. I truly believe the carrier is well-positioned to seize new opportunities in this dynamic region, and I am fully aligned with Etihad Cargo’s commitment to continuously investing in and enhancing the customer experience. I look forward to working closely with the regional team to find innovative, tailored solutions that fully meet the capacity requirements of Etihad Cargo’s customers and partners.”

Etihad Cargo recently announced the carrier’s winter schedule, which will see the introduction of two new routes in the Indian Subcontinent region and additional frequencies to existing destinations. The carrier will offer more belly-hold cargo capacity across new passenger routes to Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram, operating seven flights per week to each destination. Etihad Cargo will also provide additional belly hold capacity via new passenger flights to Chennai, Kochi, the Maldives, Columbo, and Islamabad.
Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Aviation Group, will serve as the host airline for the third ACE event, taking place between the 4th and 6th of December 2023.

Held at the W Abu Dhabi - Yas Island Hotel, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, the focus of the conference will be on the Middle East market, the transformation of air cargo, and the handling and transportation of time-critical and special cargoes.

“After the previous editions being held in China pre-Covid, we are excited to hold ACE 2023 in the Middle East,” said Christos Spyrou, Founder and CEO of co-organizer, Air Cargo Plus.

“ACE is designed for air cargo logistics executives, and our third edition will feature excellent networking opportunities, world-class speakers debating key issues, and solution-driven workshops in a friendly but professional atmosphere.

“Abu Dhabi is an ideal location for our conference because of its reputation as a dynamic business destination, built on its strategic regional location, fast-growing knowledge economy, and innovative air cargo ecosystem, led by Etihad Cargo and Abu Dhabi Airports.”

Abu Dhabi Airports will welcome ACE international delegates along with the local air cargo community for an onsite visit of Etihad Cargo’s new pharma facility and an inspiring discussion about the future of Abu Dhabi as a key air cargo hub.

“Etihad Cargo is pleased to co-host the ACE Conference in the UAE’s capital in partnership with Abu Dhabi Airports,” said Leonard Rodrigues, Head of Revenue Management, Fleet and Network, Etihad Cargo.

“Abu Dhabi has emerged as a global logistics hub, offering a strategic location to enhance connectivity between the East and the West and providing the perfect place for airlines, freight forwarders, and other air cargo stakeholders to come together to share insights and deepen relationships that will further advance the air cargo industry.”

Aimed at forward-thinking executives, business owners, and cargo decision-makers, the event will offer networking opportunities including the one-to-one meeting scheduler, in-person meetings, hospitality suites, social evening events, and long enough breaks for quality networking to build long-lasting relationships.

“What makes ACE unique is the ability to gather executives, business owners, and decision-makers from airlines, GSSAs, and freight forwarders, especially the small and medium-sized ones, and their key solution providers,” said Céline Hourcade, Founder and Managing Director, Change Horizon.

“ACE brings the right people for mutual business benefits: the best future partners under one roof to generate concrete business opportunities.”

ACE 23 is organized by Air Cargo Plus and Change Horizon and is supported by TIACA, FIATA, Pharma, Aero, NAP, and WAL.
Etihad Cargo enhances US cool chain capabilities with WFS partnership

- Etihad Cargo has boosted its cool chain capabilities in the US, expanding its network with Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) to include Chicago O’Hare International Airport (ORD) in addition to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD).
- Etihad Cargo’s partners and customers will benefit from the carrier’s expertise, IATA CEIV Pharma-certified PharmaLife and Fresh-certified FreshForward product capabilities, plus dedicated cool chain and pharmaceutical facilities operated by WFS at Etihad Cargo’s three US stations.
Etihad Cargo has enhanced its cool chain capabilities in the US through the expansion of the carrier’s network with Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a member of the SATS Group. Etihad Cargo’s customers will benefit from consistent end-to-end cargo services via the carrier’s PharmaLife and FreshForward products in addition to the cargo handling facilities and services offered by WFS at Chicago O’Hare International Airport (ORD), John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD).

Etihad Cargo recently expanded its network with WFS to incorporate all the carrier’s US stations. Before adding Chicago O’Hare International Airport, the carrier partnered with WFS in New York and Washington to ensure Etihad Cargo’s robust quality standards are maintained throughout the cargo’s entire journey. In both New York and Washington, WFS operates specialised facilities for the handling of perishables and pharmaceutical commodities.

At JFK, two cool rooms provide storage for perishables and pharmaceuticals requiring temperatures of between +2 to +8 and +15 to +25 degrees Celsius. The JFK facility also features a ramp area located immediately behind the building and an organised ULD storage area with a new racking system, making the handling of cargo more seamless.

The WFS Washington facilities include a 60,000-square-foot warehouse and perishables, pharmaceuticals and live animals capabilities. In recent months, Etihad Cargo has increased volumes of its premium product range transported into and out of Washington.

Thomas Schürmann, Head of Cargo Operations & Delivery at Etihad Cargo, said: “Etihad Cargo and WFS have been partners for a number of years in the US, Europe and Asia, and the cargo handling services WFS provides align fully with Etihad Cargo’s commitment to providing world-leading, compliant cargo solutions at every stage of a cargo’s journey. Adherence to Etihad Cargo’s robust quality standards and the capacity to handle increased cargo volumes while ensuring consistent service levels contributed to Etihad Cargo’s decision to appoint WFS as the carrier’s cargo handling partner at Chicago O’Hare International Airport. WFS currently handles approximately 110,000 tonnes of cargo on behalf of Etihad Cargo in the US annually, and this is anticipated to increase with the addition of Chicago to Etihad Cargo’s network with WFS and higher volumes of the carrier’s PharmaLife

Etihad Cargo recently expanded its network with WFS to incorporate all the carrier’s US stations. Before adding Chicago O’Hare International Airport, the carrier partnered with WFS in New York and Washington to ensure Etihad Cargo’s robust quality standards are maintained throughout the cargo’s entire journey.

Etihad Cargo’s decision to appoint WFS as its cargo handling partner at Chicago O’Hare International Airport, the carrier partnered with WFS in New York and Washington to ensure Etihad Cargo’s robust quality standards and its commitment to quality, becoming the first Middle Eastern airline to achieve IATA CEIV Pharma, Fresh and Live Animals certifications. The airline has gone on to enhance its eight-strong premium product offering with the introduction of new features, including specialised thermal covers, the development of over 1,330 IATA CEIV / GDP pharma trade lanes, and the adoption of digital tools to support the emirate of Abu Dhabi’s vision of becoming a global air cargo hub, with a strong focus on pharmaceuticals and life sciences products.

Schürmann concluded: “Etihad Cargo is committed to being the air cargo partner of choice, and quality is a core pillar of achieving this vision. Working with partners, such as WFS, who share and adhere to Etihad Cargo’s robust quality standards and industry best practices will enable the carrier to further improve the customer experience and ensure partners receive consistently high-quality air cargo solutions across Etihad Cargo’s global network.”

We are proud to provide this premium solution for Etihad Cargo and value the confidence they have placed in us by expanding our partnership in Chicago. Thanks to the unique global network we now have as part of the SATS Group, WFS can leverage the capabilities and expertise of our North American Pharma facilities with those of our other Pharma centres around the world,” said Jose Canales, Senior Vice President, Commercial & Business Development, Americas, at WFS.
Etihad Cargo appoints Soufyan Mouaniss as Director West Cargo Commercial

Soufyan joined Etihad Cargo in 2019 as General Manager Benelux and Nordic region, and most recently was Area General Manager of North and West Europe.

Tim Isik, Etihad Cargo’s Vice President Commercial, said: “Soufyan has been an influential member of Etihad Cargo’s team and has achieved outstanding success in his previous roles. He has demonstrated his ability to deliver results, reach financial targets, and spearhead organisational growth in his regions. I am confident Soufyan will thrive in this new position and will play a pivotal role in expanding Etihad Cargo’s reach in the West, which is a key region in the carrier’s ambitious expansion plans.”

Commenting on his new role, Soufyan said: “I am delighted to take on this new challenge at such an exciting time for Etihad Cargo. As the carrier launches new routes and increases frequencies in the region, I look forward to working closely with partners and customers to ensure Etihad Cargo meets delivery promises and remains the air cargo partner of choice.”

Etihad Cargo recently announced the introduction of new routes for Europe as part of its winter schedule. The carrier now offers additional belly capacity to two new European gateways via four weekly flights to Copenhagen and three flights per week to Düsseldorf. The carrier is also offering increased frequencies to Munich, Rome, Madrid, and Milan. The airline will launch a service to Boston, a fourth US gateway destination, in 2024. Additionally, Etihad Cargo operates four dedicated freighter services per week to Frankfurt, five to Amsterdam, and two to Chicago, supporting the airline’s expansive passenger network with freighter capacity to fully meet the needs of partners and customers.
WestJet Cargo continues expansion with a new cargo route

Calgary-headquartered WestJet Cargo is operating one weekly Boeing 737-800 freighter flight from Toronto Pearson International Airport to José Martí International Airport in Havana, Cuba.

WestJet Cargo, which launched commercial all-cargo service in April and now has four Boeing 737-800 converted freighters serving major Canadian cities as well as Miami and Los Angeles, said it commenced weekly service from Toronto to the capital of Cuba. The announcement provided few other details and WestJet didn’t respond to an inquiry for more information.

WestJet Cargo launched its first-ever freighter service in April. This followed the certification of its 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighters (BCF) in March. (The airline secured the use of four B737-800 Boeing Converted Freighters (BCF), after WestJet decided to launch dedicated freighter operations in 2021.)

All four 737BCFs have now entered service. “This new aircraft, along with the other three, has been equipped with HF (high frequency) and SATCOM during the summer. This upgrade allows WestJet Cargo to extend its flight range beyond North America and over water, making it possible for the airline to service markets like HAV (Havana) and beyond,”

The plan for the freighters was to initially focus service within North America, serving Calgary, Halifax, Toronto, Vancouver, Los Angeles and Miami. But the carrier also aims to expand into Latin America.

The airline originally planned to start scheduled freighter operations in the summer of 2022 but faced unexpected regulatory challenges obtaining certification from Transport Canada to operate the modified aircraft. In July, it began offering customers the ability to charter aircraft for dedicated transport.

Lufthansa also announced that it will start operating an Airbus A321 converted freighter once a week from Helsinki to Copenhagen, Denmark, and add a second frequency from Copenhagen to its base in Frankfurt, Germany, where shipments can connect to Lufthansa’s global passenger and freighter network.

The routings will allow shippers in Helsinki to drop off loads late in the day for the next morning’s uplift in Frankfurt. Lufthansa said it will soon add another short-haul connection to Stockholm.

Lufthansa Cargo has operated long-haul, international freighter routes for decades and currently operates 16 Boeing 777 freighters, including five in a joint venture with DHL. Last year it took possession of its first A321 converted freighter to provide fast overnight and same-day delivery for e-commerce shippers within Europe and parts of the Middle East and now operates three of the aircraft.

The airline recently began the A321 service between Milan and Malta.

A fourth freighter is scheduled to join the fleet within weeks, which officials say will increase the network’s reliability. The A321 has a maximum payload of more than 30 tons. Large containers are carried on the main deck and the lower deck has space for small containers.

Lufthansa recently announced it will add a 17th Boeing 777 to the fleet by the end of the year. The winter flying schedule, which begins Oct. 28, includes three weekly 777 services to Tel Aviv, Israel, and Cairo. The airline also said it will increase the number of weekly freighter flights to Hong Kong, via Mumbai, India, from six to seven and is adding two connections to Taipei, Taiwan, for the first time.

Due to steady demand, Lufthansa Cargo is also increasing the number of weekly freighter connections to Mexico City from six to seven. In July, all cargo flights were transferred to Felipe Angeles International Airport to comply with a Mexican government edict that Mexico City’s airport be dedicated to passenger flights.
Incheon Airport targets growth through partnerships

In response to the rapidly evolving landscape of the logistics sector, characterized by an increase in the value addition of logistics, the integration of advanced systems, and the proliferation of borderless e-commerce, Incheon International Airport is steadfast in its commitment to enhancing logistics services. Its core value is customer satisfaction, fostering trust through a myriad of initiatives that focus on symbiotic growth with clients.

Enhancing Customer Convenience through Diverse Infrastructure

Currently, the Incheon International Airport’s Free Trade Zone encompasses an airport logistics complex and cargo terminal area, promising a more competitive environment to customers.
the Free Trade Zone are directly connected, facilitating seamless exchanges without the need for separate transportation procedures. This connection supports value-added logistics activities through mechanisms like straightforward processing, assembly, and use consumption declaration, thereby actively adapting to the global business environment.

Currently, the cargo terminal houses eight cargo buildings, three air cargo warehouses, four special-purpose processing facilities, and two customs-bonded areas, collectively forming a significant logistics hub.

Simultaneously, Incheon International Airport is advancing toward the development of future-oriented cargo terminals and autonomous cargo towing technologies. These innovations aim to elevate the efficiency and streamline the operations further. Through these developments, the airport plans to upgrade the caliber of logistics services provided to its customers significantly.

Incheon International Airport plans to spearhead the global aviation logistics technology sector by adopting new technologies such as AI and robotics. These technologies aim to minimize the costs and time involved in cargo operations, boosting productivity substantially. Furthermore, the airport is in the process of establishing new ground operation protocols and promoting the digital transformation of the air cargo industry, to position itself as a leader in the sector.

Moreover, Incheon International Airport is committed to expanding transportation options to enhance customer convenience. Plans are underway to support new transportation means, including buses, to supplement the existing transportation facilities, ensuring easy and efficient access to the logistics complex for clients.

**Collaborative Marketing Initiatives with Clients**

Incheon International Airport is ramping up efforts to enhance the marketing activities of its client companies. An initiative in this direction was the ‘Joint Information Session to Boost Air Cargo Volume in the Vietnam Region’ organized in collaboration with Jeju Air. The session, which took place over two days from May 31st to June 1st, in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, targeted local logistics personnel and aimed to foster an increase in air freight traffic in the region.

This event was strategically planned as a part of the ongoing ‘Air Cargo Incentive Program’, spearheaded by Incheon International Airport to amplify air cargo traffic volumes. Spanning two days, the event attracted a significant response, with about 61 companies from the Vietnamese forwarding and logistics sectors, and approximately 150 representatives in attendance.

Building on the success of this event, Incheon International Airport plans to hold a joint briefing with FedEx later this year, in addition to rolling out online marketing campaigns with China Airlines and UPS. Looking ahead, the airport intends to expand its collaborative marketing efforts, fostering continuous dialogue and partnerships with a broader spectrum of clients.

**Efforts to Increase Cargo Traffic Through Customized Support for New Growth Cargo**

Incheon International Airport is diligently working to amplify cargo traffic, with a significant emphasis on supporting sectors witnessing new growth, in a bid to enhance cargo movement volumes.

Notably, the airport has recently acquired the distinction of being the world’s first to secure CEIV certification in three burgeoning sectors; perishable goods, pharmaceuticals, and lithium batteries. The airport is actively offering support to increase cargo traffic in these sectors through engagements with relevant companies, facilitating dialogues to understand customer needs, and deploying tailored support initiatives.
In the perishable goods sector, collaborations are underway with organizations such as the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation (AT) and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA). In the pharmaceutical domain, the airport is liaising with prominent companies such as and to develop efficient logistics and transportation processes. In addition, plans are underway for a potential collaboration with the KoBIA (Korea Biomedicine Industry Association).

Furthermore, Incheon International Airport is intensifying promotional activities in the realms of perishable goods, pharmaceuticals, lithium batteries, and e-commerce. The airport is ramping up marketing efforts, utilizing both online and offline channels, to reach a global audience, fostering trust among customers. Through these diverse initiatives, Incheon International Airport aims to steadily increase cargo traffic within the new growth sectors.

**Partnering with Global Logistics Companies**

Incheon International Airport is strengthening its infrastructure through alliances with global logistics companies, fostering mutual growth with clients.

Recently, the airport pledged to intensify its collaboration with FedEx, the leading airline in air cargo handling worldwide.

Representatives from Incheon International Airport recently introduced FedEx executives to their air cargo operations during a visit. During his inaugural visit to Korea since taking office, FedEx President Richard Smith demonstrated considerable interest in the exceptional air logistics infrastructure and services available at Incheon International Airport.

With FedEx considering business expansion in the Asia-Pacific region, discussions focused on potential strategies for leveraging Incheon International Airport as a major hub to attract greater air cargo demands.

In addition, the FedEx executive team toured the exclusive FedEx cargo terminal, newly inaugurated in October 2022. This establishment was created using the BTS (Build-to-Suit) model and is presently leased. This model involves the airport constructing the cargo terminal while operations are handled by the lessee. This large-scale collaborative project saw investments of 53.5 billion KRW from Incheon International Airport and 40.5 billion KRW from FedEx.

Moreover, Incheon International Airport announced the completion of the DHL cargo terminal expansion last year, marking the commencement of its full-scale operations.

DHL has operated a cargo terminal at Incheon International Airport since 2007. The recent expansion has enlarged the facility to three times its original size, now spanning 58,000 square meters, up from 19,000 square meters.

Not only has the facility expanded, but it has also integrated modern logistics systems, significantly reducing the time needed to handle import and export cargoes. The number of express cargoes processed per hour has significantly increased from 8,100 to over 20,000, promising to substantially boost cargo throughput at Incheon International Airport. DHL anticipates heightening its influence at Incheon International Airport following this expansion.

Furthermore, Incheon International Airport continues to cultivate relationships and collaborations with global logistics firms, promoting reciprocal growth.

Lee Hak-Jae, the President of Incheon International Airport, emphasized, *Lee Hak-Jae, President of Incheon International Airport, said: “Incheon International Airport remains dedicated to continual collaboration with international logistics corporations, striving to augment infrastructure and thereby solidify its position as a pivotal logistics hub in Northeast Asia.”*
Buffalo Airways launches 737 cargo-only freighter route between Edmonton and Yellowknife

Buffalo Airways and YEG (Edmonton International Airport) said a new customized Boeing 737-300SF “Special Freighter” would allow the airline of reality TV fame to establish the first and only direct flight from Edmonton to Yellowknife dedicated to cargo. The customized jet is fitted with a cargo door on the side of the fuselage and can pack 10 pallets or containers of cargo.

Canadian airline Buffalo Airways has launched the “first and only dedicated cargo-only/freighter route” between Edmonton and Yellowknife in Canada, according to Edmonton International Airport.

The route will be served with a customized Boeing 737-300SF (Special Freighter), said the airport. The service will operate Monday to Friday, carrying critical goods such as pharmaceuticals and healthcare, food and beverage, time-sensitive automotive and other manufactured parts, plus retail.

The current system that usually sees cargo driven to Hay River and flown into Yellowknife has reached capacity, according to the company, which asserts the new aircraft will allow it to “set a new standard for overnight freight services in the region.”

YEG is the fifth-busiest airport in Canada by passenger traffic, generating an economic output of over $3.2 billion and supporting over 26,000 jobs, based on pre-pandemic data.

“I have spent the last two years preparing for the arrival of this aircraft, and I can’t wait to witness the remarkable impact it will have on our operations,” said Mikey McBryan, general manager, Buffalo Airways.

Having direct, scheduled freighter access to North Canada complements Edmonton’s existing network of domestic, trans-border, and international cargo services, said the airport.

“We welcome this new service with our partners Buffalo Airways to introduce this critical link to our Northern neighbours. This dedicated freighter service improves connectivity between regions and will have a strong positive impact on the residents in Northern Canada, providing access to affordable essential goods by improving the supply chain to and from Northern communities,” said Myron Keehn, president and chief executive, Edmonton International Airport.
Menzies Aviation appoints Global Head of Cargo to continue its rapid growth trajectory

Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world’s airports and airlines, has announced three new senior appointments to drive forward its growing air cargo business, including a new Global Head of Cargo.

Beau Paine has been appointed as Global Head of Cargo and will retain his current role as Senior Vice President Cargo OSea. Beau joined Menzies in 2005 and has been instrumental in leading the Australian cargo team since 2018, and the wider Oceania and SouthEast Asia (OSEA) team since 2021.

Beau takes the reigns during an exciting period for Menzies’ cargo business, which has recently opened several new locations including Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) and Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) in the US and José María Córdova International Airport (MDE) in Colombia. A joint venture (JV) with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BLR) in India, involves the construction of a new domestic cargo facility with an initial capacity of 250,000 tonnes and increasing the capacity of the international cargo facility, while a JV at Santiago International Airport (SCL) in Chile will include all-new import cargo facilities.

In South Africa, Menzies has partnered with South African Airways (SAA) Cargo to undertake a significant refurbishment of its cargo terminals at O.R. Tambo International Airport (JNB) and Cape Town International Airport (CPT). Renovations at the terminals include investment in electric vehicles and ground service equipment, solar energy, energy-efficient lighting, and a full recycling programme.

In his new role, Beau will be tasked with working closely with the company’s regional cargo teams, helping to grow and develop the business as part of its cargo expansion strategy. He will be responsible for fortifying Menzies’ position as the leading cargo handler in the market, enabling it to grow its services and use of new technologies. This includes the global roll-out of its next-generation warehouse management system, Menzies Aviation Cargo Handling (MACH), delivered in partnership with Wipro.

Supporting Beau and Menzies’ OSEA operations, Kayla Moa has been appointed Vice President Cargo Operations, Australia. Kayla, who joined Menzies in 2005, will oversee the company’s local cargo operations, with a focus on delivering safe and secure services for its customers.

Karl Aldwinckle has also been announced as the new Vice President Cargo Europe. Based at London’s Heathrow Airport (LHR), Karl will be responsible for increasing Menzies’s cargo footprint in Europe, along with supporting the rollout of new technologies.

Philipp Joeinig, CEO, Menzies Aviation, said: “We are delighted to announce the appointment of Beau, Karl, and Kayla to new positions within our cargo team. Our cargo business has rapidly expanded, growing from 49 locations in 2021 to 75 this year, and we have ambitious plans to take this even further. With signs that cargo demand is strengthening, we’ve created a solid platform for growth, and I look forward to working with Beau, Karl, and Kayla as we undertake this new chapter in our cargo journey.”

Company continues its commitment to New York State with $4 million investment in newly-leased headquarters

Atlas Air Worldwide has announced that its new corporate headquarters will be located in White Plains, New York, signifying the Company’s ongoing commitment to operations within New York State.

Atlas commits to retaining 400 existing, full-time permanent jobs in New York at its newly leased 60,000-square-foot space in White Plains, New York, where the Company is investing $4 million in tenant improvements, including new equipment, IT, and security. The Company expects to move from its current headquarters in Purchase, New York in January 2024. In exchange for retaining 400 full-time jobs over a period of five years and $4 million in investment, Empire State Development has awarded Atlas a $2 million capital grant.

“Atlas is excited to continue our ties to New York, which is an important part of our global network as we support our customers around the world,” said Michael Steen, Chief Executive Officer, Atlas Air Worldwide. “Continuing our presence in New York guarantees our access to the top talent critical to our operations. New York has served Atlas and our employees well as we’ve grown into one of the largest cargo carriers in the world. We are thankful to Senator Schumer and Empire State Development for working with us through this process and for their commitment to our relationship.”

“White Plains got ready for takeoff—because Atlas Air Worldwide’s new corporate headquarters is landing right here,” said Senator Schumer. “I am pleased that Atlas will continue the operation of its headquarters here in New York, which will create good-paying local jobs and boost the economy. Atlas’ ongoing commitment to the Hudson Valley will help our region continue to soar as home to one of the largest cargo carriers in the world.”

Empire State Development President, CEO, and Commissioner Hope Knight said, “Atlas Air has a long history of job creation and economic growth in this state and we are pleased to support their transition to White Plains and more importantly, their continued commitment to New York. We look forward to continued growth and investment into the Mid-Hudson Region well into the future.”

Atlas has maintained headquarters in New York since 2000. Additionally, the Company employs 265 people based at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) in Queens, New York.

In addition to its New York headquarters, Atlas maintains its Global Operations Center near the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) in Erlanger, Kentucky; a training center in Miami, Florida; operations centers in Anchorage, Alaska and Hong Kong; and key logistics centers around the world to support its global network.
Qatar Airways Cargo, the leading air cargo carrier, announced its latest strategic move in the Chinese market by introducing two new destinations - Chengdu (TFU) and Chongqing (CKG).

Qatar Airways Cargo has commenced belly-hold flights to Chengdu (TFU) and Chongqing (CKG) starting 23rd and 25th of September, respectively. Both these destinations, served three times a week by Airbus A330-300 aircraft, will further enhance Qatar Airways Cargo’s global network. These strategic additions will play a crucial role in facilitating international trade, bridging China with the rest of the world.

Elisabeth Oudkerk, SVP Cargo Sales and Network Planning said, “Qatar Airways Cargo has been serving the Chinese market since October 2003, when it first started belly hold flights to Shanghai. We are pleased to expand our network in Mainland China with these new destinations and offer our customers direct belly hold capacity for their imports and exports out of these key markets.”

Qatar Airways Cargo already serves several destinations in Mainland China, including Beijing, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Zhengzhou offering a combined weekly cargo capacity of more than 2,700 tonnes each way including the newly introduced destinations.

Both Chongqing and Chengdu stations will primarily operate as export-oriented markets, jointly providing a weekly capacity of 84 tonnes each way. Exports will predominantly consist of vulnerable/tech cargo while imports will encompass general cargo, fish and seafood, and perishables.

This expansion perfectly aligns with Qatar Airways Cargo’s ongoing commitment to expanding its global footprint and delivering dependable and efficient cargo solutions to its valued customers.

The airline’s customers can book cargo online with ease, convenience and reliability using its state-of-the-art Digital Lounge platform or other connected marketplaces that provide its customers access to capacity.
IAG Cargo expands cold chain services in the US

IAG Cargo’s facility at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) has been approved to transport time and temperature-sensitive healthcare products.

This “Constant Climate” station will facilitate the movement of pharmaceuticals that require time and temperature management between Cincinnati and London Heathrow Airport.

IAG Cargo said the station will leverage the company’s network, which links six continents, to transport critical cargo such as vaccines, medicinal drugs, and clinical trial medication around the world.

The service is expected to be of special interest to pharmaceutical customers located in Ireland and India whose medicines frequently transit through London Heathrow to the US.

The station brings the total number of approved IAG Cargo Constant Climate stations in the US to 21.

Jordan Kohlbeck, head of pharmaceuticals at IAG Cargo, added: “We are very excited about the opening of a new Constant Climate station at Cincinnati airport. The opening of Cincinnati will allow us to support more customers globally and provide another route by which they can utilize our cold chain solution to transport their key pharmaceuticals.

“We look forward to working with our partners and customers to increase our pharmaceutical offerings with this new addition.”

IAG Cargo’s Constant Climate product is a cold chain solution that caters specifically to the transportation of pharmaceuticals, such as vaccines, biotech products, diagnostics samples, or any other temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical material.

During the first half of 2023, Constant Climate experienced a 45% increase in the volume of pharmaceuticals transported across its network compared to the previous year.

IAG Cargo’s 10,000 sq m “New Premia” facility at London Heathrow launched in May. It features a Constant Climate Quality Centre (CCQC) for pharmaceuticals, with 27 dedicated cool cells and temperature facilities available from +2°C to +8°C (Col), +15°C to +25°C (Crt) and -20°C (Fro) to ensure sensitive shipments are held in a temperature-controlled environment at all times.
Vienna Airport was the focal point of the international air cargo industry: On 9 October 2023, the first Vienna Cargo Day took place at AirportCity, directly followed by FlyPharma Europe 2023 on 10 and 11 October 2023. More than 400 international air cargo industry representatives gathered at Vienna Airport was the focal point of the international air cargo industry: On 9 October 2023, the first Vienna Cargo Day took place at AirportCity, directly followed by FlyPharma Europe 2023 on 10 and 11 October 2023. More than 400 international air cargo industry representatives gathered at
Vienna International airport.

Besides providing high-quality cargo services, we also offer great know-how at the location. The cargo location Vienna bundles all the necessary competencies and creates valuable synergies.

Vienna Airport on these three days to exchange news and trends on topics such as sustainability, digitalization or hydrogen. The Vienna Cargo Day was opened by TIACA President Steven Polmans, who emphasized how much such events help to make the industry even more attractive. Many interested guests also seized the opportunity to visit the state-of-the-art pharmaceutical handling facilities at Vienna International Airport.

The geographical location makes Vienna Airport the ideal cargo hub for Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. In addition, connections to North and South America are to be developed more strongly in the future.

“Besides providing high-quality cargo services, we also offer great know-how at the location. The cargo location Vienna bundles all the necessary competencies and creates valuable synergies. The Cargo Day showed that an intensive exchange between all stakeholders is important and advances the location as a whole,” emphasizes Michael Zach, Vice President Sales, Finance & Cargo, Ground Handling & Cargo Operations at Vienna Airport.

But the appeal of the city of Vienna, which attracts large numbers of tourists every year and ensures strong belly business due to the high volume of air traffic, also helps the location. Sustainable practices and innovative technologies in real estate development have made AirportCity one of the largest locations in the sustainable building sector in Austria.

“Vienna AirportCity scores points because it has long been more than just an airport. Only 20 minutes from Vienna city center, we now offer first-class real estate, offices and cargo space – embedded in urban infrastructure. The fruitful cooperation of the cargo community at the location creates new potential and improves processes at the location,” underlines Wolfgang Scheibenpflug, Senior Vice President Real Estate & Landside Management at Vienna Airport.

Vienna Cargo Day – AirportCity

offered a platform for exchange on potential in air cargo

The first Vienna Cargo Day gathered more than 400 experts and stakeholders from the cargo business at Vienna AirportCity. Together with the cargo community of the location and business partners, the sustainability of all cargo topics at Vienna Airport was discussed. At the Vienna Cargo Day, TIACA President Steven Polmans, Michael Zach, Vice President Sales, Finance & Cargo, Ground Handling & Cargo Operations at Vienna Airport, Wolfgang Scheibenpflug, Senior Vice President Real Estate & Landside Management at Vienna Airport, and Peter Reulbach, Senior Manager Cargo Business Development and Cargo Community Manager at Vienna Airport, among others, provided exciting insights into current and future developments in cargo handling, the cargo community and Airport City with regard to sustainability and digitalization. In addition to digitalization and new possibilities offered by hydrogen, the discussions focused on current developments at the airport and at AirportCity. Participants included representatives of Lufthansa Cargo, Kühne + Nagel, DHL Global Forwarding and Swissport Cargo Services Austria as well as numerous other companies and scientists.

Vienna Airport – high-performance air cargo location with its own Pharma Handling Center

Due to extensive investments in its logistics infrastructure, Vienna International Airport is a global cargo gateway for Central and Eastern Europe and an important air cargo hub for neighboring Eastern European logistics routes. Especially for intercontinental transports, Vienna Airport is used by leading cargo airlines such as Lufthansa Cargo, Emirates Cargo, Eva Air Cargo, Korean Air Cargo, Asiana, Cargolux, Turkish Cargo, Qatar Airways Cargo or Silk Way West Airlines. With the Vienna Airport Pharma Handling Center (VPhC), the airport operates its own competence centre for handling temperature-sensitive cargo without interrupting the cold chain.

Fly Pharma – Industry conference for experts at the competence Location Vienna

FlyPharma Europe in Vienna provided an attractive platform to discuss current and future challenges in the pharmaceutical and air cargo industry. Key topics included market trends, cold chain innovations, the latest regulatory requirements, security technologies and fostering collaboration between supply chain players. Massive infrastructure investments in recent years have also further strengthened the role of Vienna Airport as one of the most important Pharma destinations. The state-of-the-art facilities of the Pharma Handling Center opened in 2018, which could be visited as one of the highlights of FlyPharma Europe 2023, offer perfect conditions for an even better and, above all, safe, high-quality, transparent, and monitored all-round service in this area.
CargoAi recently announced a significant leap forward in the evolution of its services by introducing CargoCoPilot, a groundbreaking feature seamlessly integrated into its flagship platform, CargoMART. This innovative solution harnesses the power of artificial intelligence to enhance the efficiency of CargoMART forwarders and airline/GSA users, reaffirming its commitment to accelerating every stage of the airfreight procurement process with greater efficiency and visibility.

CargoCoPilot drives every stage of the airfreight procurement process with greater efficiency and visibility. Leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs), a type of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm that uses deep learning techniques and vast data sets to understand, summarize, predict, and generate content, CargoCoPilot offers real-time intelligent assistance, enabling users to enhance their efficiency, productivity and skills.

With CargoCoPilot, forwarder users can expect an array of powerful features designed to streamline their operations. Among those features, its new Outlook plugin permits users to effortlessly read and search airline rates straight from their emails. This feature captures the ease of use that CargoAi continuously aims to provide its clients.

Its Customized Analytics feature allows forwarders to now access deeper insights and data analytics within and around the CargoMART platform. This augmentation empowers businesses with information that can guide crucial decisions and optimize operations. Customized analytics insights are also sent to the freight forwarders’ users every 2 weeks to support them in making better procurement decisions.

Available also on CargoMART Airline, CargoCoPilot helps Airlines and GSA get customized insights to reply to Spot Quote requests.

CargoCoPilot has been available to Forwarders and Airline CargoMART Pro users since early October. Additionally, it can also be accessed via API on CargoCONNECT, providing even more accessibility to our innovative solution.

In response to feedback from its clients, CargoAi has also introduced a seamless Single Sign-On (SSO) integration. This sought-after feature will further enhance user experience by allowing clients to access all CargoAi services with a single set of credentials, eliminating the need for multiple logins and providing a unified experience.

CargoAi also announced that it has obtained ISO 27001 certification in August 2023. This achievement underscores the company’s unwavering commitment to data security and compliance. ISO 27001 certification validates its dedication to safeguarding the sensitive information of its clients, ensuring that their data remains confidential and protected at all times.
Saudia Cargo receives IATA’s CEIV Pharma certification

Saudia Cargo celebrates a significant accomplishment, receiving the esteemed Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) Pharma certification from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

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Aymen Osilan, Executive Director at Saudia Cargo, “Receiving the certification is a testament to our dedication to excellence and commitment to providing top-notch services to our valued customers. “This demonstrates our ability to handle pharma shipments with utmost care, ensuring the integrity and quality of products. “Saudia Cargo was vital in aiding in the distribution of vaccinations and other necessities during and post-pandemic, working to uphold the highest standards of quality while doing so both domestically and internationally. “Around a year ago, we started the certification process with IATA for CEIV Pharma, and now, after a year of laborious efforts, strengthening Saudia Cargo’s position as a trusted provider for spearheading air cargo solutions in the industry. “Receiving the IATA CEIV Pharma accreditation is a testament to our team’s dedication to excellence and work ethics commitment to offering our clients and business partners the best possible services in pharmaceutical logistics.”

This success demonstrates Saudia Cargo’s commitment to excellence and innovation in pharmaceutical transportation. The IATA’s CEIV is a universally recognized standard within the industry. CEIV Pharma is designed to ensure that facilities, equipment, operations, and personnel meet the standards, regulations, and guidelines that pharmaceutical manufacturers require. The aim is to enhance industry knowledge and establish a consistent global standard.

IATA’s CEIV Pharma certification is a milestone highlighting Saudia Cargo’s unwavering commitment, with a team of certified experts, having successfully transported life-saving medicines and vaccines, solidifying its crucial role in global healthcare logistics.

Saudia Cargo is dedicated to serving the expanding Middle East pharmaceutical market with top-notch products while prioritizing the safety and security of any cargo being transported and offering an effective path for all substantial products.

Teddy Zeblitz, CEO of Saudia Cargo, stated, “We are proud to have obtained the CEIV Pharma accreditation. “Since we’ve seen a significant increase in pharmaceutical shipments over the past four years, we’ve made the firm commitment to facilitate the leasing of the best temperature-controlled packaging options and unrivaled knowledge to guarantee secure and dependable pharmaceutical transportation in the rapidly expanding Middle East market. “We’re focused on upholding the greatest levels of excellence, security, and safety in pharmaceutical logistics, highlighting our unique position in defending humanity with our offerings.”
World Courier invests in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) together with Swiss WorldCargo

Swiss WorldCargo has announced an agreement with World Courier, a global specialty logistics provider and a part of Cencora (formerly AmerisourceBergen), which will support the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) within the SWISS airfreight division. World Courier’s investment in SAF, which represents the highest investment that Swiss WorldCargo witnessed so far, will be the equivalent of supporting more than 2,000 shipments from London to Switzerland and will result in 146,513 kg of reduced carbon emissions.

The agreement between World Courier and Swiss WorldCargo reflects the two parties’ shared commitment to establish more sustainable practices across the biopharma logistics and airfreight industries.

SAF, which is made from renewable biomass and waste resources, is a biofuel used to power aircraft that has similar properties to conventional jet fuel but with a fraction of its carbon footprint. In fact, SAF can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 80%, according to the International Air Transport Association.

The collaboration will help to advance the production of SAF, which is one of the enablers for the transition of aviation to carbon neutrality. The SAF manufacturer is certified according to ISCC EU and complies with the requirements of the RED and the certification system ISCC EU, which is approved by the European Commission.

“At Swiss WorldCargo we invest in driving positive change in the airfreight landscape and are directing our efforts to make collaborations such as the one with World Courier a new reality in the near future. World Courier’s investment in SAF with Swiss WorldCargo is in fact a statement of our shared commitment to a more sustainable future of our logistics industry” says Lorenzo Stoll, Head of Cargo at Swiss International Air Lines.

“Our partners trust us to deliver vital pharmaceutical products around the world, ensuring they can reach the patients who need them. As we continue to enhance our service capabilities, we remain equally focused on investing in solutions and implementing practices that enable us to establish more efficient and sustainable operations globally. Our collaboration with Swiss WorldCargo directly aligns with our strategy and reflects the commitment across Cencora to achieve our enterprise-wide science-based carbon reduction target,” said Alex Guite, Senior Vice President of Global Operations and services at World Courier.

Cencora is committed to the science-based target initiative to reduce its absolute Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 54.6% by FY2032, based on FY2019.
For the ninth successive year, dnata has been named ‘Ground Handler of the Year’ at the 2023 Air Cargo News Awards. The award, which has long been recognised as one of the most coveted accolades in the air cargo industry, was presented at a gala event in London.

Alex Doisneau, Managing Director of dnata UK (Airport Operations), who accepted the award on behalf of dnata globally, said: “We are honoured to receive this prestigious award as a recognition of our commitment to innovation, safety and service excellence. We thank all members of the dnata team globally whose hard work has been the driving force behind our success. We will continue to invest in infrastructure and technologies to provide world-class services and set new standards in the air cargo industry.”

Over the past year, dnata has continued to enhance its operations through strategic investments globally. It established operations in Zanzibar, Tanzania and expanded its footprint in Canada through its partnership with the GTA Group, adding Calgary and Vancouver to its cargo network. In addition, it increased its investment in Air Dispatch to become the sole shareholder of the world’s leading provider of centralised load control services.

Dnata has also taken major infrastructure projects to the next level. In Erbil, it broke ground on a new cargo facility which will add significant expansion to its operations in Iraq. Meanwhile, construction of dnata Cargo City Amsterdam, one of the world’s largest and most advanced facilities of its kind, continued in The Netherlands.

Dnata has also invested in cutting-edge technologies and digitalisation to further improve efficiencies across its operations. Key milestones include the continued global rollout of its advanced cargo management system, OneCargo, and the successful integration of autonomous drones into its cargo operations in Dubai, UAE.

Dnata has continued efforts to optimise resources across its global network as part of its pledge to reduce its carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. Previously, the company committed US$ 100 million to implement green technology and initiatives across its businesses to achieve its strategic objective. The company’s recent key initiatives include continued significant investment in infrastructure, green ground support solutions, and process improvement.

As a recognition of its unwavering commitment to sustainability across its diverse portfolio of businesses in the UAE, dnata has recently received the International Air Transport Association (IATA) environmental management certification (IEnvA).

Dnata is a leading global air and travel services provider. It offers quality and safe ground handling, cargo, travel, catering, and retail services in over 30 countries across six continents. In the financial year 2022-23, dnata’s customer-oriented teams handled over 710,000 aircraft turns, moved over 2.7 million tonnes of cargo, uplifted 111.4 million meals, and recorded a total transaction value (TTV) of travel services of US$ 1.9 billion.
dnata to save a further 650 tonnes of carbon per year with innovative cooling technology in Singapore

The initiative is part of the company’s global efforts to reduce its carbon footprint by 50% by 2030

dnata, a leading global air and travel service provider will save at least 650 metric tonnes of carbon and 1.5 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year following the installation of a new, innovative technology at its Singapore Changi Airport (SIN) facilities.

The introduction of Cooling as a Service (CaaS) provides chilled water and air conditioning through a reliable, efficient and sustainable solution. Supplied by provider Kaer, CaaS was implemented at dnata Singapore in January 2022 to provide cool water and air to its cargo, catering and support facilities. Under the CaaS model, Kaer retrofitted the cooling systems serving the two facilities with high efficiency, low-Global Warming Potential (GWP) technology and have deployed their suite of data mining, machine learning, and carbon monitoring software.

This has resulted in a 54% reduction in energy consumption at dnata’s cargo base and a 35% reduction at its catering and support offices. The technology also allows for real-time monitoring and
dnata recently announced that it was on track to reduce its carbon footprint and waste to landfill by 50% by 2030 as part of its eight-year green operations strategy. Previously, the company committed US$ 100 million to implement green technology and initiatives across its businesses globally to achieve its strategic objectives. The company’s recent key initiatives include continued significant investment in infrastructure, green ground support solutions, and process improvement.

dnata’s Singapore facilities were already benefitting from sustainable technology through the use of a rooftop power plant which comprises of 6,500 individual solar panels, generating over 4,300 megawatt hours of green power each year. This enabled dnata to reduce its electricity-related carbon emissions by 20%. The energy savings achieved by the new cooling systems is the equivalent of installing an additional 2,400 rooftop solar panels.

Charles Galloway, dnata’s Regional CEO, Airport Operations – Asia Pacific, said: “We are proud to be an early pioneer in low-GWP refrigerant, and making our Singapore operations even more efficient and sustainable. We have plans to expand our CaaS initiatives to additional areas of our operations, and look forward to working with our partners to further reduce our environmental footprint.”

Justin Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Kaer, added: “We are excited to welcome dnata into the CaaS movement and to be a part of their journey towards carbon neutrality. Our ongoing partnership with dnata allows us to scale up our investments in low carbon technology in the coming years and showcase how the implementation of CaaS, alongside the use of solar panels can deliver clean and sustainable cooling.”

Charles Galloway, dnata’s Regional CEO, Airport Operations – Asia Pacific, said: “We are proud to be an early pioneer in low-GWP refrigerant, and making our Singapore operations even more efficient and sustainable. We have plans to expand our CaaS initiatives to additional areas of our operations, and look forward to working with our partners to further reduce our environmental footprint.”

Justin Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Kaer, added: “We are excited to welcome dnata into the CaaS
Qatar Airways Cargo: Two decades of excellence in air freight

Qatar Airways Cargo, a pioneering force in the global air cargo industry is celebrating 20 years of dedicated freighter operations.

Qatar Airways Cargo has evolved and grown into the world’s leading air cargo carrier, with an extensive fleet and a robust network. To commemorate this remarkable journey, the carrier reflects on its major achievements and innovations.

In 2003, Qatar Airways Cargo took delivery of its very first freighter, an Airbus A300-600, which was a converted passenger aircraft. It began regular operations to Amsterdam and Chennai, and shortly thereafter, to New Delhi. Today, the cargo airline operates to more than 160 belly-hold and over 70 freighter destinations with over 200 passenger aircraft and 31 dedicated cargo freighters.

Elisabeth Oudkerk, Senior Vice-President, Cargo Sales and Network Planning, expressed her joy and gratitude, stating: “As Qatar Airways Cargo celebrates 20 years of freighter operations, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our customers for their continuous trust in our services. We take immense pride in our history and anticipate contributing to the promising future of air freight.”

Over the past two decades, Qatar Airways Cargo has continuously expanded its fleet, network, and product portfolio, becoming the world’s number one cargo carrier. With the launch of its Next Generation strategy, Qatar Airways Cargo has defined its role in the air cargo industry by bringing a fresh and innovative approach to business across its network and operations: through enhanced products and services, cutting edge technology, a commitment to sustainability and diversity, investing in existing talent and attracting new ones.

Under the complete corporate mindset shift that is The Next Generation, Qatar Airways Cargo has achieved significant accomplishments including being the first airline globally to complete the suite of IATA CEIV certifications, the launch of the Kigali Africa hub in partnership with RwandAir, and the introduction of innovative products like Pharma, Fresh, Courier, and SecureLift.

Furthermore, Qatar Airways Cargo’s commitment to customer experience and innovation has made it a preferred partner for businesses worldwide. Having embraced digital transformation early, it has successfully launched its new website and a state-of-the-art ebooking portal Digital Lounge, and partnered with marketplace platforms, bringing added value to its customers. Additionally, Qatar Airways Cargo has committed to sustainability through its WeQare program, championing initiatives such as ‘Rewild the planet’ and launching a CO2 emission calculator.

As Qatar Airways Cargo enters its next decade, it remains dedicated to digitalization and sustainability and looks forward to continuing to be at the forefront of air cargo’s innovation and customer-centric solutions.
Çelebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management, at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first Indian cargo handler to participate in and complete the highly esteemed BlueSky Sustainability program offered by The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA). Çelebi’s commitment to sustainable practices is a testament to its role as a responsible stakeholder in the aviation industry and has set a benchmark for the Indian cargo handling industry.

Çelebi has diligently scored in all sustainability standards set by TIACA’s BlueSky program. This comprehensive program focuses on the environment, society, culture, and leadership, with an emphasis on reducing carbon emissions, conserving resources, supporting communities, improving quality of life, and enhancing efficiency. By diligently following this program, Çelebi is committed to achieving a broad spectrum of environmental and operational goals.

Reflecting on this remarkable achievement, Mr. Kamesh Peri, CEO, Çelebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management, commented, “At Çelebi, we have always looked for innovative and environmentally sustainable ways to enhance our ground handling services. We’re thrilled that our efforts have been recognized and that we are now India’s first cargo handler to complete the BlueSky Sustainability programme of TIACA. This accomplishment demonstrates our dedication to environmental protection and sustainability. We are wholly committed to supporting the Indian aviation sector in achieving its carbon-neutral objectives.”

Mr. Glyn Hughes, Director General of TIACA, also congratulated, stating, “We congratulate Çelebi Aviation for undergoing the TIACA BlueSky assessment program for their Delhi location. The results reflected some impressive scores in relation to workforce management and business efficiency which are key components of a sustainable strategy.”

Completing the BlueSky Sustainability program reaffirms Çelebi’s status as a trailblazer in the cargo handling sector. As the industry continues to evolve, Çelebi remains steadfast in its mission to drive positive change and promote sustainable practices that benefit both business and the environment.
and advanced data analytics to provide 
 comprehensive view of the condition 
 and the location of pharmaceutical 
 transports,” says Martin Schulze, CEO 
 of BlueBox Systems. “Due to our 
 data, pharmaceutical logistic companies 
 are able to track the temperature and 
 the condition of the transports, for 
 example. By doing so, they can avoid 
 costly damage or delays. Furthermore, 
 they can also proactively intervene 
 in the transport progress – thanks to 
 predictive analytics of the transport 
 data – in order to deliver products faster 
 while preventing delays. In addition, data 
 sharing along the supply chain ensures 
 more trust between all parties.”

SFS Pharma Logistics, a specialty 
 courier company, relies on BlueBox 
 Systems with immediate effect. With 
 its own branches in the whole Asia-
 Pacific region, Singapore-based SFS 
 Pharma Logistics is the market leader 
 in Asia specializing in the transport of 
 temperature-controlled goods.  
 “When transporting temperature-sensitive 
 pharmaceutical goods, we rely on 
 extensive use of technology to ensure 
 seamless monitoring and transparency. 
 By integrating BlueBox Systems’ data 
 into our system, we now offer our 
 customers an even better visibility of 
 their transports,” says Guan Zhengyi, 
 Regional Business Process 
 Manager at SFS Pharma Logistics.  
 In addition, specialized data trackers 
 for pharmaceutical deliveries can be 
 integrated into BlueBox Systems’ 
 platform BlueBoxAir. This allows a 
 combination of data like temperature, 
 humidity, light, or information about 
 vibrations with real-time data of the 
 carriers, which enables a seamless 
 tracking of sensitive freight. This shows 
 very fast, for example, where exactly 
 an increased temperature or a strong 
 vibration has occurred. This kind of data 
 is valuable for optimizing the supply 
 chain and choosing the best cargo airline. 
 Especially the cost-effective semi-active 
 tracker – when it’s combined with the 
 real-time tracking platform BlueBoxAir – 
 becomes an equivalent and cost-efficient 
 alternative, compared to active cost- 
 intensive tracker systems.
BlueBox Systems offers real-time shipment visibility to WACO members in new agreement

In a new partnership with BlueBox Systems, WACO members can now track air and ocean cargo shipments, preventing delays and enhancing collaboration within the network. Through a new partnership with WACO, the world’s foremost independent global freight management and logistics organization, BlueBox Systems is providing WACO members access to visibility solutions for both air and ocean freight.

In the form of two freight visibility platforms, BlueBoxAir and BlueBoxOcean, BlueBox is delivering collective analytics for WACO members and bringing real-time oversight of shipment status and flight-related data in a user-friendly interface.

For BlueBoxAir, BlueBox Systems accesses data from more than 130 airlines and enables users to track the aircraft position making it possible to track cargo in real time and to receive updates and information about the expected time of delivery.

For BlueBoxOcean, BlueBox Systems has a successful partnership with Vizion that will give users end-to-end production location data and greater visibility.

Their API is designed to seamlessly integrate essential, reliable, and complete container data and insights to achieve end-to-end visibility.

These enriched datasets, all developed on robust information technology infrastructures, enable WACO members to track 98 percent of ocean freight volume.

This makes it possible to take immediate corrective action throughout the transport process and prevent costly delays.

Whether using the ocean or air freight solution, WACO members are able to collaborate through the platforms. They can share comments and documents for each shipment and combine these with accurate shipment data.

If two members work together on one shipment, the WACO version of BlueBoxAir or BlueBoxOcean is the ideal tool to do so.

“WACO has negotiated on behalf of the network to secure a great deal that ensures all members can offer their customers visibility throughout the entire supply chain,” said Richard Charles, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), The WACO System. “The ability for our members to collaborate on shared shipments provides real added value to the WACO network and will strengthen partnerships among members.”

The BlueBox dashboards provide data analytics and collective reports in an integrated way through intuitive navigation between pages.

“Our engagement with WACO really is an excellent collaboration. This agreement is pivotal as it allows both BlueBox Systems and WACO to offer our collective air and ocean freight visibility solution to all WACO members,” says Martin Schulze, CEO of BlueBox Systems. “We work hard every day to provide the best freight data in the market and we will continue to innovate while adding value for our customers. That’s our commitment.”

“Together with BlueBox Systems we bring the best data for Ocean and Air freight to the table, made effectively usable with the BlueBox Systems UI,” says Kyle Hernderson, CEO of Vizion. “On this basis, we form the perfect team to support WACO in their goal to offer their members the best visibility and collaboration platform.”
TRENDS

Special air cargo verticals see continued growth in 2023

While general cargo tonnages have fallen in all of the main world origin regions, WorldACD highlights a number of areas recording tonnage increases during the first 8 months of 2023, including certain important product categories, origin points, and world regions or sub-regions.

Special air cargo product verticals have continued to record growth in the first eight months of 2023, while general cargo tonnages have fallen, year on year (YoY), from all of the main world origin regions, new analysis from WorldACD Market Data has revealed.

Total worldwide chargeable weight flown from January to August 2023 was down -7% compared with the equivalent period last year, although the YoY gap has continued to narrow as the year has progressed, dropping to -3% for July and August combined. However, analysis by WorldACD of the more than 2 million monthly transactions captured in its database highlights a number of areas that have continued to achieve growth at various times this year, including certain important product categories, origin points, and world regions or subregions.

Product category performances
Examining the performance of some of the major air cargo product categories so far this year, WorldACD identified big declines in express (-17%), general cargo (-12%), and dangerous goods (-12%) in the January-August period, compared with last year, while pharma/temperature-controlled shipments remained characteristically stable during this period. But there was notable growth for vulnerable/high tech (+7%), live animals (+5%), perishables (+4%), and valuables (+2%) shipments, compared with January-August 2022.

Combined figures for all the special cargo product verticals categories recorded by WorldACD indicate that tonnages of special cargo products as a whole grew by +3% on a worldwide year-to-date (YtD) basis, whereas general cargo tonnages fell by -12%, YoY, in those first 8 months of 2023.

Examining this separation of general cargo and special cargo on a regional basis is also revealing, with general cargo tonnages significantly down, YoY, from all of the main origin regions, in most cases recording double-digit declines of between -10% and -20%, with Europe the only slight exception (-9%). In contrast, special cargo product verticals recorded growth from all of the main regions except North America (-8%) and Europe (-2%), ranging from +3% from Africa, +6% from Central & South America, +7% from Asia Pacific, to +15% from the Middle East & South Asia.

Product pricing variation
There has also been considerable pricing variation this year between...
Volumes from Africa, and from Central & South America have been more or less flat, compared with last year, in the first 8 months, but tonnages from North America (-17%) and from Europe (-7%) remained down significantly – including in the July-August period (-15% and -8%, respectively).

**Mexico leads subregion growth**

In its second-quarter (Q2) and first-half (H1) analysis, WorldACD analysed outbound tonnages from various world subregions, highlighting North Africa as the fastest-growing origin subregion in the first half of 2023, recording +21% growth. But in this latest YTD analysis, covering January to August, WorldACD examined those same subregions on a combined outbound and inbound basis, identifying Mexico as the fastest-growing overall area during this period, with +10% growth, YoY.

Other growth areas included the Caribbean (+7%), Central Africa (+6%), North Africa (+5%), China (+3%), the Gulf area (+2%), and the Levant & Caucasus (+1%). West Africa, Central America, and Balkans and Southeast Europe were more or less flat as subregions during the first eight months of the year.

But on the other end of the scale, big declines can be seen in other parts of Asia, with Northeast Asia (excluding China, -16%) and Southeast Asia (-15%) the worst-performing subregions during this period. Other subregions recording significant declines include the USA (-11%), East Africa (-10%), Australas & Pacific (-10%), Western Europe (-7%), and Eastern Europe (-5%). Moderate declines were also recorded to and from Southern Africa (-4%), South America (-3%), Canada (-2%), Northern Europe (-1%), and South Asia (-1%).

**Product origin champions**

Finally, WorldACD also identified the top three YTD growth origin countries or areas within several key product categories, with Hong Kong, South Korea, and China (South East) leading the growth in vulnerable/high-tech cargo shipments. India, Egypt, and Brazil led the growth in fruit and vegetable shipments, with Ecuador, Colombia, and Kenya topping the list of countries achieving growth in chargeable weight of flower shipments. Chile, the UK, and Argentina led the way in fish and seafood export tonnage growth, while India, the Netherlands, and Italy topped the growth origin countries for temperature-controlled/pharma products.

Meanwhile, China (East), UAE, and Canada (East) led the growth in dangerous goods exports, with Brazil, the Philippines, and Indonesia, leading growth in outbound live animal air shipments. Finally, Hong Kong, Greece, and Japan were the biggest growth sources for valuables shipments in the first 8 months of this year, compared with the equivalent period in 2022, in terms of absolute increases in chargeable weight.

**Regional tonnages stabilise**

But overall tonnages flown from Asia-Pacific have been holding up much better, YoY, in recent months than at the start of 2023, as they have on most worldwide markets, as demand has stabilized. After declining YoY, in the first two quarters of 2023, tonnages flown from Asia Pacific returned to positive territory in July and August combined, recording +3% growth. Chargeable weight flown from the Middle East & South Asia also recorded growth (+4%) in July and August, having dropped -7% in the first quarter (Q1) and fallen slightly (-1%) in Q2.
Air France KLM Martinair Cargo enhances its cargo solutions with new PLUS Service Level

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo is delighted to launch a new PLUS service level, reflecting its ongoing commitment to improving product quality and service standards. Available with immediate effect, this new service is specifically intended for cargo shipments requiring extra priority. It seamlessly complements our existing product range and provides a wide array of benefits for key customers.

The main benefits of our PLUS service are:
- High priority: PLUS customers are given priority when booking shipments.
- Extra care: PLUS shipments get preferential treatment during loading and unloading.

“The PLUS service level perfectly completes our product portfolio, offering an intermediate option between our General Cargo and Express products. This extra option has long been on our customers’ wish list.” Mathieu Fleisch, VP Products & Verticals at Air France KLM Martinair Cargo.

Our Express product remains the optimum choice for shipments requiring late delivery, early pick-up, or shorter connection times. Booking a PLUS shipment is a hassle-free process. Customers can book PLUS easily and flexibly online via our myCargo customer portal or by contacting our dedicated customer service team.

“The introduction of our new PLUS service level is a new step in our commercial transformation, which is intended to deliver a best-in-class customer experience. Last month, we achieved a record 78% online bookings. This new service offers an extra alternative and enhances our online customer journey, making it even easier for customers to do business with us.” Gert Jan Roelands, SVP Commercial at Air France KLM Martinair Cargo

The new PLUS service level is equally available for bookings on CMA CGM AIR CARGO to destinations within the scope of our joint venture. Air France KLM Martinair Cargo is committed to constantly improving and delivering excellence in airfreight solutions.
Artificial Intelligence has formed the basis of Wiremind products ever since its introduction in its passenger Revenue Management solution, CAYZN, back in 2018. With the development and introduction of every subsequent product, Wiremind has built up a solid, unparalleled understanding of and expertise in AI capabilities. In its air cargo software suite, machine-learning models enable demand forecasting, intelligent overbooking management, pricing recommendations, and, of course, are increasingly embedded in Wiremind’s flagship capacity optimization product: SKYPALLET.

Yet, while these AI models run in the background of those solutions, Wiremind is now developing product enhancements that will bring AI to the forefront, too, into direct contact with the user. Two use-cases have been under scrutiny since this summer, with a view to incorporating the capabilities of large language models into CARGOSTACK in 2024.

The first use case will streamline the quotation management process for airline sales teams by directly populating key criteria from a forwarder’s written quotation request into CARGOSTACK’s quotation module. The second use case will enhance CARGOSTACK’s recently released rules engine, which enables cargo teams to define custom rules for managing flights at scale across a range of parameters and conditions. While this currently requires users to write a short script within the application to define their custom rule, Wiremind is exploring the use of AI to assist users further, by allowing them to describe their desired rule in written text, which AI will translate into the relevant script, for the user to subsequently validate, test and activate.

Both of these use cases are intended to reduce manual input by users and improve the accessibility of the product, such as for users who may not be able to write scripts. As with all Wiremind products, the emphasis is placed on customer requirements, user experience, and critical feedback. Once this collaborative customer groundwork is complete, Wiremind’s product and tech teams will jointly devise the respective digital solutions.

“The hype around ChatGPT and the many other emerging language models this year, has shown that, as a society, we are now ready to embrace the opportunities that AI offers,” says Étienne Corbillé, Chief Technology Officer of Wiremind Cargo. “A trend that we are more than happy to see, given that machine-learning models have played a core role in our solution philosophy for a number of years, and are infused into all our products. That said, we too are excited by this latest wave of AI technologies, particularly generative AI and large language models, because they are creating interesting use cases within our product. Many of these possibilities have already been discussed with our customers, and their feedback is now being incorporated into our planned concepts and ongoing product enhancements. All will be revealed next year with the release of our first two next-level AI features, unleashing the full potential this fascinating technology enables to better assist our users.”
Air Cargo Demand Up 1.5% in August, First Annual Growth Since February 2022

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for August 2023 global air cargo markets, showing that year-on-year air cargo demand grew for the first time in 19 months.

Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs*), increased by 1.5% compared to August 2022 levels (2% for international operations).

Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), was up 12.2% compared to August 2022 (11.8% for international operations). This was largely related to belly capacity which rose 30% year-on-year as airlines ramped-up operations to meet peak-northern summer travel season demand.

Several factors in the operating environment should be noted:

- In August, both the manufacturing output Purchasing Managers Index or PMI (49.4) and new export orders PMI (47.0) saw a slight improvement to the previous month. They remained, however, below the critical threshold represented by the 50 mark, indicating a continuing, if slower, annual decline in global manufacturing production and exports.
- Global cross-border trade contracted for the fourth month in a row in July, decreasing 3.2% year-over-year. This reflects the cooling demand environment and general macroeconomic conditions.
- Inflation saw a mixed picture in August, with an increase in US consumer prices for the second month in a row. Meanwhile in Europe and Japan, consumer and producer prices fell. In China, which is fighting deflationary pressures, consumer prices rose.

Air cargo demand grew by 1.5% over the previous August. This is the first year-on-year growth in 19 months, so it is certainly welcome news. But it is off a low 2022 base and market signals are mixed. Looking ahead, while many uncertainties remain, we can take some optimism from PMI data moving towards positive territory. This is particularly significant as we head into air cargo’s traditional peak year-end season,” said Willie Walsh, IATA’s Director General.

August Regional Performance

Asia-Pacific airlines saw their air cargo volumes increase by 4.9% in August 2023 compared to the same month in 2022. This was a significant improvement in performance compared to July (+2.3%). Carriers in the region benefited from growth on two major trade lanes: Europe-Asia (up from 3.1% in July to 8.8% in August) and Middle East-Asia (up from 2.7% in July to 3.5% in August). Additionally, the within-Asia trade lane also performed better in August, with international CTKs contracting by 4.7% compared...
Air cargo market in detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUGUST 2023 (%YEAR-ON-YEAR)</th>
<th>WORLD SHARE *1</th>
<th>CTK</th>
<th>ACTK</th>
<th>CLF (%-PT) *2</th>
<th>CLF (LEVEL) *3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Market</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>-4.4%</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>-4.7%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>-3.5%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Pacific</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>-9.9%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>-5.8%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*1) % of industry CTks in 2022  (*2) Year-on-year change in load factor  (*3) Load factor level

To the 9.7% annual decline in July, available capacity for the region’s airlines increased by 28.5% compared to August 2022 as more belly capacity came online from the passenger side of the business.

North American carriers saw their air cargo volumes decrease by 1.2%. This was an improvement in performance compared to July (-5.4%). Carriers in the region benefitted from a slight improvement in growth on two major trade lanes: North America – Europe (2.9% annual contraction in August, 1.2 percentage points better than in July) and Asia – North America (declined 4.2% in August compared to 4.4% decrease in July). Capacity increased 2.7% compared to August 2022.

European carriers saw their air cargo volumes decline by 0.2% in August compared to the same month in 2022. This was, however, an improvement in performance versus July (-1.0%). Volumes saw an increase due to the aforementioned Europe-Asia performance and a small increase in the Middle East - Europe markets by 0.4%. Capacity increased 3.6% in August 2023 compared to 2022.

Middle Eastern carriers experienced a 1.4% year-on-year increase in cargo volumes in August 2023. This was an improvement from the previous month’s performance (-0.1%). The demand on the Middle East–Asian market has been trending upward in the past three months, expanding its year-on-year growth from 1.8% in June to 3.5% in August. Capacity increased 15.7% compared to August 2022.

Latin American carriers had the strongest performance in August 2023, with a 6.2% increase in cargo volumes compared to August 2022. This was a significant increase in performance compared to the previous month (+0.5%). Capacity in August was up 13.7% compared to the same month in 2022.

African airlines had the weakest performance in August 2023, with a 4.7% decline in cargo volumes compared to August 2022. This was a significant decrease in performance compared to July (+2.3%). Notably, Africa–Asia routes declined by 1.1% in August following an 11.2% growth in July. Capacity was 3.8% above the August 2022 levels.
WebCargo by Freightos the leading digital booking and payment platform for the international freight industry, has announced a partnership with Chapman Freeborn, a leading aircraft charter company, to bring additional global capacity from their global charter business to WebCargo’s platform in early October, thereby enabling seamless pricing, booking and payment for thousands of freight forwarders worldwide.

Chapman Freeborn has offices worldwide and specializes in the charter and lease of aircraft for a wide-ranging customer base, including freight forwarders, multinational corporations, governments, humanitarian agencies and a host of industries around the globe. It is a member of the Avia Solutions Group family, the world’s largest ACMI provider with a fleet of 173 aircraft and supported by 11,500 aviation professionals in 68 countries.

As the 2023 STAT Times International Air Cargo Charter Broker of the Year Award winner, Chapman Freeborn routinely organizes part-charters, backloads and other commercially innovative solutions for ad hoc, peak-season and project cargo, providing forwarders with air cargo capacity that is now being made available on WebCargo.

Manel Galindo, CEO of WebCargo, said, “The addition of Chapman Freeborn’s capacity into WebCargo’s platform means freight forwarders in some 10,000 offices worldwide will gain instant access to their vast and unparalleled global network, covering routes such as Liège to Chicago, Dubai, and Singapore. Our combined strengths will provide competitive rates and a seamless booking and payment experience for forwarders who already conduct thousands of bookings every day on our platform.”

Representing Chapman Freeborn, Reto Hunziker, President – Europe, added, “Chapman Freeborn facilitates 29,000 flights per year and has covered over nine million air miles. We have a track record of providing the best air cargo charter experience, and our strategic focus is on our customers’ air cargo needs. Our partnership with WebCargo by Freightos will create further visibility and awareness of our brand, help us gain deeper market penetration, and enable our customers to benefit from the speed and flexibility of WebCargo’s unparalleled platform.”
IATA Secures More Data Contributors for CO2 Connect

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) will be adding further airlines and airline groups as data contributors to its CO2 Connect emissions calculator, hence improving the quality and accuracy of the tool. Respective agreements were signed with Aerolineas Argentinas, Air Baltic, LATAM Airlines Group, Luxair and Nile Air during the first World Sustainability Symposium held on 3-4 October 2023 in Madrid, Spain.

“Accessing the most accurate operational data is key to achieving global consistency and alignment in CO2 emissions calculations. Expanding this data pool is essential in providing greater transparency and coherence to passengers and stakeholders alike. This allows for more informed CO2 compensation choices while supporting ESG reporting. In continuously expanding our data sources, we will further enhance IATA CO2 Connect’s calculation quality, far beyond what any theory-based or model-based tools can achieve”, said Frederic Leger, IATA’s Senior Vice President Commercial Products and Services.

Given the complexities and the lack of available data sources needed to accurately calculate CO2 emissions from aircraft, IATA launched CO2 Connect in June 2022, with the objective of using actual airline data, such as fuel burn, belly cargo and load factors in order to provide accurate per passenger CO2 emissions calculations. The CO2 Connect calculator now receives actual operational data from around 150 airlines. Paired with other IATA and open market data sources, IATA CO2 Connect calculates fuel burn data for 74 aircraft types, representing ~98% of the active global passenger fleet, and considers traffic data from 881 aircraft operators representing ~93% of global air travel. This sets it apart from other CO2 calculators which rely on theoretical models and thus apply more assumptions in their calculations.

Through its agreements for the distribution of the CO2 data calculations with companies like ATPCO and Amex GBT, IATA supports airlines in the provision of accurate and consistent passenger CO2 emissions data across sales channels and travel management companies.

CO2 Connect will continue to evolve and include new features. IATA is already in the process of creating an affordable white-label microsite solution tailored for airlines, leveraging CO2 Connect model and fully powered by IATA. This comprehensive solution will include a compensation feature for environmentally-conscious customers seeking to minimize their carbon footprint.

Methodology

IATA CO2 Connect utilizes the Passenger CO2 Calculation Methodology (RP 1726) adopted by IATA’s Passenger Service Conference in March 2022. This was conceived with support from leading partners from 20 airlines and major aircraft manufacturers, in consultation with international standard-setting bodies and logistics services providers. The methodology includes factors such as:

- Guidance on fuel measurement, aligned with the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)
- Clearly defined scope to calculate CO2 emissions in relation to airlines’ flying activities
- Guidance on non-CO2 related emissions and Radiative Forcing Index (RFI)
- Weight based calculation principle: allocation of CO2 emission between passenger and belly cargo
- Guidance on passenger weight, using actual and standard weight
- Emissions factor for conversion of jet fuel consumption to CO2, fully aligned with CORSIA
- Cabin class weighting and multipliers to reflect different cabin configurations of airlines
- Guidance on carbon offsets and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) as part of the CO2 calculation.
Following the receipt of regulatory approvals, DHL Group completes the acquisition of MNG Kargo on October 5
Integration starts under the management of DHL eCommerce
MNG Kargo complements DHL Group’s European eCommerce parcel network

DHL Group completes the acquisition of Turkish parcel delivery company MNG Kargo Yurtiçi ve Yurtdışı Taşımacılık A.Ş. (MNG Kargo) and its subsidiaries. After obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals by the Turkish Competition Authority as well as the Turkish Information and Communications Technologies Authority, the transaction has been consummated and MNG Kargo, one of the leading Turkish parcel delivery companies, is now officially part of the DHL family. The integration of MNG Kargo will proceed under the management of DHL eCommerce, the e-commerce logistics specialist of DHL Group.

“MNG Kargo’s expertise in parcel courier services combined with its extensive domestic network will help us to further expand our service offering in Turkey and enhance our strong cross-border European parcel network. We extend a warm welcome to our new colleagues and look forward to leveraging the tremendous e-commerce potential in the country and beyond together,” says Pablo Ciano, CEO DHL eCommerce.

This acquisition will enable customers of DHL Group to benefit from unique logistics offerings within Turkey as well as cross border through the collaboration of the various DHL divisions already present in Turkey.
For DHL eCommerce, the newly acquired parcel network, with 27 mid-mile sorting centers and over 800 last-mile branches in all relevant cities of Turkey, is a perfect addition to the European parcel delivery network and thus becomes part of the business unit. Mainly driven by a young, dynamic population with a high affinity for digital communication, the e-commerce market in Turkey is expected to see double-digit growth in the coming years – significantly higher than in the EU markets. By combining DHL eCommerce’s network and digital expertise with MNG Cargo’s local footprint, DHL Group will be perfectly situated to benefit from the enormous growth potential of the Turkish market.
Turkish Cargo

Chosen as The Best Air Cargo Brand of Europe

Turkish Cargo, the successful brand of Turkish Airlines, is chosen as the best air cargo brand of Europe and received the “Best Cargo Airline – Europe” award during the Air Cargo News Awards 2023.

The prestigious Air Cargo News Awards, referred to as the Oscars of the airfreight industry, are established based on criteria including quality, innovation, efficiency, speed, reliability, and vision. These criteria are evaluated through votes cast by cargo actors from across the globe. The award recipients are publicly announced to industry professionals.

On the award, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bolat, stated; “As the Turkish Cargo family, we are once again delighted to be chosen as Europe’s best air cargo brand. This prestigious award and the other global awards we won throughout the year are significant acknowledgments of our service quality, our innovative standards targeting to exceed the customer expectations and our sustainable achievements. I would also like to extend my thanks to our colleagues who have contributed to our company’s success. Turkish Cargo will continue to be among the world’s leading air cargo carriers with its wide flight network and perfectionist service concept.”

Achieving sustainable growth with its infrastructure, operational capabilities, fleet, and expert teams in the field, Turkish Cargo aims to become one of the top 3 air cargo brands in the world. Within this framework, Turkish Cargo has been innovating by developing pioneering projects in the field of digitalization to meet the needs of its customers and industry partners to deliver sustainable high-end services in a constantly changing world.
Cargo carriers faced multiple challenges to business growth in 2022, a year that presented a dramatically different operating landscape to 2021.

2022 proved to be a testing year for air cargo carriers following the boom years of the pandemic. The start of the Ukraine-Russia war had an immediate impact on routes and fuel costs while taking freighter capacity out of the market. Economic conditions then toughened. As well as trade flow disruption due to the war, inflation rose, and volumes decreased.

Post-pandemic belly capacity trickled back with the phased return of airline passenger flights, and sea freight supply chain congestion eased.

As a result of volume declines and the return of belly capacity, rates also began to dip in the second half of the year.

Clearly reflecting the increasingly tough market conditions, traffic in scheduled cargo tonne km (CTK) terms decreased by 8% year on year, and 1.6% compared to pre-Covid 2019, according to IATA.

This was a sharp drop from the 18.7% year-on-year increase registered in 2021.

Likewise, the airline association’s World Air Transport Statistics (WATS) report showed the top 25 cargo airlines in 2022 suffered a drop in cargo traffic of 8.9% year on year.

“In the face of significant political and economic uncertainties, air cargo performance declined compared to the extraordinary levels of 2021. That brought air cargo demand to 1.6% below 2019 (pre-pandemic) levels,” said Willie Walsh, IATA’s director general.

Europe suffers, Latin America prospers

All regions suffered a downturn in demand in 2022 compared to 2021, apart from Latin America.

There was an 11.5% decrease in demand (measured in CTKs) in 2022 compared to 2021 for European carriers.

“Airlines in the region continue to be most affected by the war in Ukraine,” said IATA.

Middle Eastern carriers reported a 10.7% decrease in CTKs, while North America saw a 5.1% decrease.

Asia Pacific airlines saw an 8.8% decline, said IATA. The association commented that airlines in the region continued to be impacted by lower levels of trade and manufacturing activity and disruptions in supply chains due to China’s rising Covid cases.

Of those regions with a decline, African airlines had the lowest reported decrease in demand, at 1.4%.

Latin America was the only region to see an increase in demand, at 13.1%, and with a capacity increase of 27.1%. Several airlines had completed restructuring processes during the year, which had boosted performance.
**FedEx takes top spot again**

Federal Express (FedEx) retained the top spot in the top 25 airlines rankings overall but recorded a fall in volumes year on year due to economic conditions and continued challenges presented by the pandemic.

According to WATS, volumes for the US express giant dropped 5.4% year on year to 19.5bn CTK.

In its fiscal first quarter results for the period ended August 31, 2022, FedEx said decreased volumes, as well as revenues below forecasted figures, had prompted it to undertake cost reduction initiatives including cancellation of certain planned network capacity and other projects; reducing flight frequencies and temporarily parking aircraft; closing more than 90 FedEx Office locations; and deferral of staff hiring.

In its second-quarter results for the period ending November 30, 2022, FedEx again noted a “weaker demand environment”, with reduced FedEx Express revenues a particular pain point, although its previously implemented cost reduction plans had helped soften the blow.

The company’s 2022 annual report stated: “Our operating results for 2022 were negatively affected by the coronavirus pandemic, labour market challenges, and inflationary cost pressures.

“Labour market challenges contributed to global supply chain disruptions and affected the availability and cost of labour resulting in network inefficiencies, higher purchased transportation costs, and higher wage rates.

“In addition, global recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic slowed with the onset of new variants, which resulted in reduced shipping demand and caused network disruptions, particularly at FedEx Express during 2022.”

Although volumes were down the carrier sought to strengthen operations with the delivery of four Boeing 777 Freighters and 12 Boeing 767-300F during the year, as recorded in its annual report.

FedEx also began taking delivery of Cessna SkyCourier 408 aircraft from an order of 50.

The company additionally took delivery of four ATR 72-600Fs, to give it a total of six of the aircraft. FedEx is investing in 30 new ATR 72-600F aircraft overall for shorter feeder routes.

Furthermore, the company retired its Md-10 fleet at the end of 2021.

The annual report showed the fleet consisted of 696 owned and leased aircraft, compared with 684 a year earlier.

To continue its fleet renewal, FedEx plans to take delivery of eight more B777F aircraft between 2023 and 2025, and 38 more B767F aircraft between 2023 and 2025.

**UPS takes second place**

In comparison to FedEx, rival US express carrier United Parcel Service (UPS) climbed back up to second place after dropping to third in 2021. The company recorded growth of 2.3% to 15.8bn CTK last year.

Core airfreight verticals, including express, e-commerce and healthcare, aided volumes, though like FedEx, UPS cited macroeconomic issues and Covid lockdowns as impacting its overall performance.

UPS said in its 2022 annual report: “A number of macroeconomic factors contributed to a challenging operating environment in 2022, including global inflation and rising interest rates, recessionary forecasts, wage and labour market pressures, geopolitical uncertainties and foreign currency exchange rates relative to the US dollar.

“We continued to be affected by...”
Covid-19 lockdowns in China that impacted both manufacturing and supply chains. In addition, consumers returned to more pre-pandemic shopping patterns.

“These factors resulted in disruptions to certain parts of our business, negatively impacted demand for our services and contributed to increases in certain of our operating costs.”

UPS noted in the report that the volatile market also eroded revenues within its divisions, but it was helped by growth in some business areas.

“In our International Package segment, revenue increased slightly, driven by fuel revenue, revenue quality actions and favourable shifts in customer and product mix. These increases were mostly offset by lower volume, the impact of the strengthening US Dollar and reductions in demand-related surcharges, primarily in the fourth quarter.

“In Supply Chain Solutions, the decrease in revenue was driven by volume and market rate declines in Forwarding, as well as the impact of divesting UPS Freight in 2021. These decreases were partially offset by growth in our healthcare operations and in a number of our other businesses.”

Like FedEx, UPS continued to invest in cargo capacity, but also scaled back its leased aircraft, reflecting the weakening market throughout the year.

UPS had 586 aircraft at the end of 2022, compared with 595 a year earlier. Its 767F fleet totalled 81 at the end of 2022, up one from the previous year. The company has 28 aircraft of this type on order.

Its 747Fs numbered 41, up from 39 in 2021. There are also two 747-8F on order.

Six MD-11 aircraft are expected to be retired from operational use during 2023.

UPS also reduced the number of operating leases and charters from other companies by nine, from 307 to 295 aircraft.

### Qatar places third

Qatar Airways also felt the impact of the tough operating climate, with a decrease of 11.4% year on year to 14.3bn CTK in 2022, dropping one place to third position compared with 2021.

The carrier’s 2022/23 report for the period April 1 2022 to March 31 2023 stated: “With a tonnage of 159,730,903 kg in chargeable weight, Qatar Airways Cargo declined by 9.4% in chargeable weight compared to the same period in the previous year.”

However, the airline, which continued to bring back its passenger capacity last year, said pharmaceuticals and medical supplies remained a major part of volumes, although the transportation of vaccines and PPE equipment began to slow down last year as the pandemic progressed.

The 2022/23 report stated that Qatar Cargo had handled “84,000 tonnes of pharmaceutical products transported, including 4,000 tonnes of vaccines and over 1,200 tonnes of Covid vaccines”.

Animal transport was also big business for the carrier, with 12,600 horses transported during the period.

Plus, Qatar Cargo undertook more than 1,400 charter flights during the period for e-commerce, animals, music band tours and FIFA (football world cup) related activities.

Not deterred by a tough operating climate, Qatar also pledged further investment in aircraft in 2022 with the order of up to 50 777-8Fs and two current generation 777Fs.

### How did other airlines fare?

Lessor specialist Atlas Air achieved a 2.8% increase in volumes. The airline said it took delivery of four new 747-8Fs and the first of four 777Fs, all of which are operating for customers under long-term agreements.

At the end of 2021, Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings brought the operations of Southern Air, acquired in 2016, under a Single Operating Certificate (SOC) with Atlas Air.

AeroLogic, the joint venture between DHL Express and Lufthansa Cargo, also achieved growth of 0.9% year on year. The airline operated 21 777Fs on behalf of the two shareholders, according to Lufthansa’s 2022 annual report.

Lufthansa Cargo is responsible for marketing the capacities of five of these aircraft.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong-headquartered Cathay Pacific Airways experienced a steep drop in volumes of 29.7%. The airline continued to experience difficulties with pandemic lockdown and quarantine restrictions imposed by the government in the first half of the year.

These restrictions significantly curtailed passenger flights and belly capacity until May when the rules began to be relaxed progressively, enabling the airline, said chief executive Ronald Lam, to “gradually resume more flights, especially between October and December”.

Freighter operations did not resume fully until August.

Japan Airlines and LATAM were new to the list, entering at places 24 and 25 respectively.

But Etihad Airways exited the list, as did Volga-Dnepr group-owned AirBridgeCargo Airlines, whose aircraft have been on the ground for most of 2022 due to airspace bans and restrictions on leasing aircraft to Russia-based airlines as a result of the Ukraine-Russia war.
WestJet Cargo Launches Inaugural Flights to Havana, Cuba

WestJet Cargo is excited to announce its new cargo route to Havana, Cuba, commencing on September 23, 2023. This expansion marks WestJet Cargo’s first venture into the Cuban capital.

Operating one weekly flight on the YYZ – HAV route, WestJet Cargo offers 20-tonne cargo capacity per flight per week, addressing the growing demand for cargo transport in Canada.

WestJet Cargo is fully equipped to handle various cargo types, including General Cargo, Perishables, and select Dangerous Goods, ensuring secure and efficient cargo transportation to Havana.

This milestone underscores WestJet Cargo’s dedication to expanding its network and delivering top-tier cargo services to Havana, Cuba.

BBAM delivers first Alaska Air Cargo 737-800 freighter conversion

Alaska Air Cargo today took delivery of the first of two 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighter (BCF) aircraft on lease from BBAM Limited Partnership (BBAM).

Alaska Air Cargo plans to use the aircraft for expanded freight service in the state of Alaska and beyond in the coming months.

This is the fifth and sixth North American placement of the 737-800BCF for BBAM as part of its commitment with Boeing for 40 conversions of the type.

The first aircraft recently completed conversion at COOPESA, a maintenance facility in Costa Rica. A second aircraft will be converted by Boeing at KF Aerospace in British Columbia. Alaska Cargo plans to have both BCFs in service by the end of Q1 in 2024.

“BBAM is excited to deliver its first Boeing 737-800BCF aircraft to Alaska Airlines,” said Steve Zissis, president and CEO of BBAM.

“The aircraft will deliver flexibility, capability and operational efficiency across Alaska Air Cargo’s growing cargo network. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with Alaska.”

The 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighter is equipped with CFM56-7B engines and carries a maximum structural payload of 23.9 tons with 12 main deck positions.

It flies more than 2,000 nautical miles with a maximum payload and is an exceptionally cost-effective standard-body freighter.

“We look forward to welcoming this first of two Boeing 737-800s into our current fleet,” said Adam Drouhard, managing director of Alaska Air Cargo.

“These additional aircraft will nearly double our current cargo capacity and extend the range of our network for our customers.

“We appreciate BBAM and Boeing’s support in converting these former Alaska Airlines passenger aircraft to freighters and allowing us to expand our lift at Alaska Air Cargo.”
Cargo drone airline Dronamics has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Cranfield Aerospace Solutions (CAeS) to further work on using the CAeS hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) propulsion system in its Black Swan cargo drone aircraft.

This agreement includes a letter of intent (LOI) for CAeS to supply a “substantial number” of propulsion systems from 2026, bringing CAeS’s total pipeline to over 1300 drivetrains, said the UK-based developer of hydrogen propulsion system technology for aircraft.

The two companies have been working together since November last year, under an earlier MoU, on a feasibility study for the application of CAeS’s HFC technology into Dronamics’ flagship Black Swan cargo drone aircraft, which is capable of carrying 350 kg for up to 2,500 km.

The feasibility study has concluded that the CAeS HFC system is well suited to meet the required payload, cargo volume and range for the Black Swan aircraft.

As a result, CAeS will develop an STC (Supplemental Type Certificate) equivalent modification pack for the Black Swan to convert existing conventionally powered versions of the aircraft to a zero emissions HFC variant in accordance with CS23 aircraft design standards.

The resultant HFC propulsion system is a half-scale version of the 250 kW system being developed under CAeS’ Project Fresson (the conversion of the 9-seat Britten-Norman Islander aircraft to hydrogen fuel cell propulsion), validating the ability of the CAeS HFC technology to be adapted to different platform requirements.

This agreement with Dronamics provides a further route to market for the modular HFCS propulsion system technology being developed by CAeS and is expected to enable Dronamics to offer its customers zero-emissions cargo flights.

CAeS chief executive Paul Hutton said: “The selection as preferred supplier of hydrogen fuel-cell powerplants for the Dronamics Black Swan fleet is testament to the exceptional technology that our team has developed and also to our aircraft integration design capabilities.

“We have now demonstrated that we can adapt and integrate our modular hydrogen propulsion technology into different platforms, opening up much wider market opportunities to exploit further the CAeS gaseous HFC aircraft propulsion systems from 2026.”

Chief executive of Dronamics, Svilen Rangelov, said: “We are very excited to be working with CAeS on the adoption of hydrogen fuel-cell technology for our aircraft, having successfully completed the feasibility study. The prospect of running flights with their emissions-free propulsion system helps further solidify our position as a frontrunner in the cargo drone market.”
LATAM Cargo inaugurates new route from Europe to strengthen connections with Brazil

LATAM Cargo has launched a new route between Brazil and the Netherlands that will target the pharma market and provide a faster connection.

The freighter operator said the new service would operate twice per week between Amsterdam and Curitiba utilizing one of its Boeing 767 freighter aircraft.

The service is aimed at “strengthening connectivity between Europe and South America while reducing transportation time through a more direct alternative and providing enhanced capacity for clients”. Up until now, forwarders and shippers have had to use services with an intermediate stop. “Operating with two weekly frequencies on Tuesdays and Saturdays, this route efficiently links Europe with Curitiba, primarily transporting pharmaceutical products and general cargo,” the airline said.

Gudny Genskowsky, vice president of network and alliances at LATAM Cargo, said: “At LATAM Cargo, we are constantly reviewing our cargo itinerary, always seeking new opportunities to benefit our customers. “In this context, the opening of this route is part of an initiative that will enable us to provide a more direct and efficient service to Curitiba from Europe.”

The addition of the new service comes after LATAM Cargo revenues took a hit in the three months that ended June 30, against a backdrop of softening demand.

Cargo revenues decreased by 23.2% year on year in the second quarter to reach $355m. this was as capacity grew, and southbound demand to South America declined.

LATAM Cargo is expanding its cargo fleet by converting 767 passenger aircraft into freighters. the airline took delivery of its 18th B767BCF in June.

Bolloré Logistics USA expands supply chain in California

Bolloré Logistics USA has opened a new distribution center in Ontario, California that will support the company’s growth goals in the luxury and beauty industries.

The 111,000 sq ft site is located near California’s Ontario International Airport and is 50 miles away from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

This location also offers proximity to downtown Los Angeles and the main suburbs, as well as close access to the main interstate freeways connecting to Nevada and North and South California.

Dedicated to the luxury and beauty industries, the distribution centre aims to serve B2B and B2C customers of Bolloré Logistics with the objective of improving their time to market whilst reducing their carbon footprint. The company’s teams provide end-to-end services, including “White Gloves” Deliveries and last-mile deliveries.

In line with Bolloré’s sustainability goals, the distribution centre, like other Bolloré Logistics operations in the US, is LEED certified.

“The opening of this new Distribution Center represents a new milestone for Bolloré Logistics’ business in Contract Logistics,” said Wayne Brohier, Ontario hub manager at Bolloré Logistics USA.

“Luxury and e-commerce are key verticals in our strategy but also growing markets with new opportunities in the Americas region. Our ambition is now to grow and expand our activities in the Western United States of America enlarging our presence with new Distribution Centers to support demands of our current and future customers.”
MSC Air Cargo has conducted its inaugural flight between Milan Malpensa and Tokyo Narita and revealed more new connections are on the way.

The call at Milan has been added to MSC’s service connecting North America with Europe and Asia.

The weekly Boeing 777 freighter service will now operate on a loop of Liege, Narita, Xiamen, Chicago, O’Hare (ORD), Liege, Milan, Narita, Xiamen, ORD and Liege.

MSC said the new flights were firsts for both Italy and Japan.

The connection will primarily focus on exporting high-value Italian products, including luxury fashion and accessories, destined for the Far East markets.

Jannie Davel, senior vice president of MSC Air Cargo, said: “We are delighted to have celebrated this significant inaugural flight dedicated to the Italian market alongside our clients. We are even more pleased to provide valuable Italian goods with an efficiency and weekly connection to some of today’s most vibrant markets for high-value product exports.

“MSC Air Cargo is in the early stages of development, and we have plans for significant investments to build and create more air transport solutions designed for products that need to reach their final destination at greater efficiency and as a top priority, including pharmaceuticals, perishable goods, or even automotive items.

“We want to enable the Italian market with even more options and ability to business their trading partners supporting national export”.

Looking ahead, the carrier will add further new calls in November.

The airline said that starting next month it would connect Quito (UIO) to Liege twice per week, in addition to Zaragoza to Mexico City on a weekly basis.

The new weekly route will now operate: Liege, Incheon, Xiamen, Mexico City (NLU), UIO, Liege, Zaragoza, NLU, UIO, Liege.

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Air Charter Service helps reintroduce white rhinos to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Leading aircraft charter specialist, Air Charter Service, was recently called into action by the non-profit conservation organisation African Parks to help them in their relocation of 16 southern white rhinos to Garamba National Park, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), from a private game reserve in South Africa.

Lyndee du Toit, ACS South Africa’s CEO, said: “The last northern white rhino was poached in the DRC in 2006 and this project, arranged by African Parks, is part of a ground-breaking effort to restore the ecological balance of one of Africa’s oldest national parks.

“We were contacted by African Parks to source a suitable solution for the transportation of 16 rhinos from Phinda Private Game Reserve in South Africa to Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We decided that a Hercules L-100 would be the best fit for the job, largely because of its ability to land on short, dirt runways. The rear-loading capability of the Herc was also utilized as Barrick’s Kibali Mine airstrip in northeastern DRC didn’t have sufficient equipment to assist in offloading the rhinos. Using this aircraft meant that two flights were needed, as each rhino weighed around 2 tons or more. Through careful planning, we were able to perform both flights in the same week, with both being loaded at night and both arriving at first light in Kibali.

African Parks’ CEO, Peter Fearnhead, said, “Now that Garamba is a safe location and has proper protection in place, this reintroduction is the start of a process whereby southern white rhino as the closest genetic alternative can fulfill the role of the northern white rhino in the landscape.”

The translocation was achieved through a collaboration with the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), African Parks and &Beyond, and was sponsored by the Barrick Gold Corporation which has undertaken to support the project over the next few years.

Air Charter Service sets its sights on Shanghai

Air Charter Service has commenced its plans to focus on Shanghai and its surrounding provinces, including those of Zhejiang and Jiangsu, by moving its office in the city to substantially larger premises. The team has been substantially expanded this year following the transferral of several senior staff from the Beijing office. All this follows the company’s recent announcement of its new management team in the region.

Newly appointed Deputy Regional Director, Wanny Wu, who has recently transferred to the office, commented: “Shanghai is the third largest city in the world, as well as one of the wealthiest, and renowned for its finance, manufacturing, and tourism industries, making it the natural choice for the first stage of strengthening our presence in China. Our Shanghai office has had several years of exceptionally strong business and this year we are having our busiest, in terms of charters, ever. As a result, we have been expanding the team, and moving several senior managers, including myself, from our Beijing office over here, as well as recruiting fresh talent.

We are preparing for a significant expansion so we needed a much larger working space, and this new office in the Xuhui District in downtown Shanghai provides more than four times the floor space of our previous office. It is an exciting time for ACS in China, and Asia Pacific as a whole, and this is just the latest development in our expansion plans.
**A350F — production launch at Aerostructures and Premium Aerotec**

**Airbus advances A350 freighter production**

Airbus has received 39 firm orders for the new A350F version since its launch in July 2021. In June this year, the livery of the very first aircraft was unveiled during the Paris Air Show. All that is missing now is the A350 freighter itself.

The aircraft has taken a decisive step forward in recent weeks with the arrival of the first components from the plants in Stade, Bremen, and Varel. Airbus Aerostructures and Premium Aerotec (PAI) teams met for the so-called 'first metal cuts', although metal was not actually involved every time.

Melanie Markgraf, ASA A350F project manager, witnessed the production start at Varel and Bremen live. She considers them a special moment on the path to A350F industrialization. “In 2013, I was lucky enough to celebrate the first flight of the A350, together with many other colleagues,” Melanie says. “Ten years later, it is vital to make one of the biggest evolutions of this fantastic aircraft a reality. Every day, a lot of our colleagues work on exciting and challenging tasks to achieve this goal. With the production starting at the Bremen, Stade, and Varel sites, we have taken a major step forward together.”

**June 2023: kick-off with the lower shell in Stade**

At the Stade plant, introducing the A350F will have a big impact on existing fuselage shell production. Additional CFRP (carbon fiber reinforced plastic) bonding jigs will be procured, in particular for the upper shell which will contain a large part of the future cargo door cut-out. The freighter lower shell is, in principle, similar to the A350 passenger version. For its first flight and steep take-off tests, the first A350F will be equipped with flight test instrumentation (FTI), requiring substantial reinforcement of the lower shell’s skin laminate.
The three large CFRP doublers required for this purpose were manufactured by the Stade fuselage shell production organization using a special process. During the fuselage shell assembly, the doublers will be mounted to the normal outer skin using more than 4,000 additional rivets.

“Since this process would occupy our automated riveting system for a full week and in order to minimize the impact on the series production process activities, we carried out this assembly work with a small team during the summer break” explains Thomas Meyn, industrial project manager at the Stade site”. The employees on the shop floor and in the support functions were willing to work during the summer break to ensure the start of assembly”.

July 2023: first thermoplastic cut for intercostal component in Bremen

The Bremen teams have been hard at work, too. The first component referred to as the freighter intercostal has been industrialised and is ready for delivery. This component is essential for the frame structure of the forward cargo door, which will be subjected to high loads. It is only one of roughly 1,400 components that are industrialized at the Bremen plant and will later be installed in all ASA workshares.

These components are the joining elements between the frames, the skin, and the system connections. Production of the thermoplastic components is one of the crucial factors for the assembly of the freighter.

The Centre of Competence for technological development and industrialization of complex thermoplastic CFRP components has yet again demonstrated its expertise for the freighter project. This is largely thanks to a high degree of employee engagement at the Bremen site and the successful implementation of automated and digitized systems. “The A350F is a great challenge for all those involved, but we will master this one, too”, summarises Norbert Dombrowski, head of ME design consulting.

First metal cut at Premium Aerotec in Varel

Premium Aerotec is responsible for some of the A350F’s major components and is an important supplier to the programme. With the “first metal cut” at the Varel site, i.e. the manufacture of the first machined part, Premium Aerotec has now launched production of this new aircraft type.

Next stop: Nordenham

The detailed parts and subassemblies for section (S) 13/14 will be delivered to the Nordenham plant, where they will be assembled to form a complete section. For S16/18, the individual shells originate from Augsburg and Stade, and the floor structure is produced in Nordenham. After the components have been joined in Hamburg to form the complete sections, both will be transferred to the system installation stage.

The first steps of the A350F industrialization have been taken and the process continues. Melanie Markgraf concludes by saying, “Let’s take advantage of this energy boost to master the upcoming tasks and make freighter history!”

This is the A350F

The A350F is based on the world-class A350-1000. The freighter features a fuselage length optimized for cargo operations and an extra large cargo door on the main deck. Over 70% of the airframe is made from advanced materials, enabling Airbus to reduce the take-off weight by over 30 tonnes for the same mission. The aircraft thus provides an advantage of at least 20% lower fuel burn and CO2 emissions over its competitor product. With a payload capability of up to 111 tonnes (five tonnes more payload and 11% more volume than its competitor), the A350F serves all cargo markets, from express traffic to general cargo, and even outsize loads. In the large freighter category, it will be the first to fulfill the ICAO CO2 emissions standards for 2028.

Coordinated organization for developing and producing the sections

Aerostructures develop the forward section, whereas the engineering responsibility for the aft section lies with Airbus Operations. Both sections are manufactured in close collaboration between Premium Aerotec and Aerostructures. The forward shells and the main deck cargo floor for both sections come from the Nordenham shop floor, the rear side shells from Augsburg, and the rear upper and lower shells from Stade, with Varel supplying the surrounding area of the door for both the smaller forward doors and the large main deck cargo door. Section assembly for S16/18 as well as the general system installation for both sections take place at the Hamburg site.
A long-standing user of Airbus Maintenance Training Software, Turkish Technic is now operating seven Airbus Competence Training (ACT) Suite equipped classrooms at Turkish Technic Ataturk Airport facilities in Istanbul, Turkey.

The new contract has been signed for a third A320 ACT Suite to add to previous agreements for A320, A330 and A350 classrooms. Turkish Technic total capacity of seven (7) ACT Suite classrooms will enable qualification and continuous training of up to 600 mechanics each year. The ACT Suite classrooms actively contribute to sustaining the growth of maintenance activities in the region by delivering high-quality training on short & long-range platforms for Turkish Airlines.

ACT Suite offers state-of-the-art maintenance training through a virtual 3D training experience.

The tool is an operationally oriented, scenario-based programme focused on a ‘learning by doing’ approach, allowing for both theoretical and practical troubleshooting. It brings realistic experience by introducing simulation at the very early stages of training and develops suitable skills in a safe environment while reducing on-aircraft practical training and associated costs.

“Thanks to our classrooms equipped with ACT Suite, we offer our technicians a visually engaging training process and prepare them for the challenges of maintenance work. Thus, we aim to offer our passengers a safer flight experience thanks to the maintenance performed by our competent technicians,” said Zekeriya DEMIR, Chief Finance Officer of Turkish Technic.

“We appreciate the confidence Turkish Technic places in Airbus Services and we are pleased to mark yet another milestone of our successful collaboration. With this seventh ACT suite, Turkish Technic showcases an impressive set-up and solid preparedness for future growth,” said Charbel YOUZKATLI, Head of Europe Commercial Services, Airbus.

With a need for more than 700,000 aircraft maintenance technicians and engineers forecast over the next 15 to 20 years, Airbus Services offers a comprehensive portfolio of training solutions for airlines, MROs and academies.

On the photo from left to right: Charbel Youzkatli - Head of Airbus Commercial Services Europe
Dr. Zekeriya Demir - Turkish Technic Chief Financial Officer
ACL Airshop expanding its reach during the “Air Cargo Southeast Asia” symposium in Singapore

ACL Airshop, a technology-enabled global market leader in air cargo equipment and logistics services, has announced that they will be a corporate participant at Air Cargo Southeast Asia in Singapore on November 1-3, 2023 at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre.

ACL Airshop, with over 190 airlines as clients, has air cargo ULD leasing, servicing, manufacturing, repairs, and specialized ULD logistics services delivered through over 55 of the world’s Top 100 cargo hub airports on six continents.

ACL Airshop, with 40 years of growth, continues steady advances for growth in all dimensions, dominating short-term ULD leasing solutions while also building a substantial portfolio of long-term ULD fleet management contracts.

The company has made first-in-market investments in award-winning logistics and tracking technologies such as Bluetooth Smart Trackers and FindMyULD™. Headquartered in South Carolina USA and with an increasingly large market presence in the Asia-Pacific region, the company emphasizes its high-performance culture as a distinct competitive advantage which is very hard to replicate by others.

Organizers of the symposium describe “Air Cargo SEA” as a high-caliber conference that brings together top experts from all around the world where industry representatives come together to discuss key topics affecting their business.

Exhibiting companies from the air cargo sector, including ACL Airshop, will be airlines, airports, forwarding agents, cargo handling companies, express services, logistics providers, and others.

Air Cargo SEA will be co-located with Transport Logistics Southeast Asia, the latest edition of the world’s largest trade show for the transportation and logistics industry, making the event positioned to be one of the most important business platforms for the air cargo sector.

Management representatives of ACL Airshop will explain to customers and industry partners: “What do we mean when we say ‘Uberization?”

They will also expertly demonstrate the FindMyULD™ free app during the symposium and will take ULD inquiries and leasing orders for the remainder of 2023, plus advance deals for 2024. ACL Airshop is steadily expanding in Asia-Pacific and globally as a leading-edge innovative service partner for airlines, winning accolades for its complete “Digital Suite” with customer-facing technologies aimed at the “Uberization” of ULDs in air cargo equipment fleet management.

The Company’s trademarked FindMyULD™ app is designed to enhance every data requirement end-to-end in air cargo transactions, across the worldwide ecosystem of the air cargo industry. From location and status accuracy to Barcoding, “ULD Control” logistics, and Bluetooth scanning and tracking, FindMyULD™ aggregates all of ACL Airshop’s ULD management services in one seamless tool. The app is free, in the palm of your hand.

Steve Townes, CEO of ACL Airshop, said “Our Singapore-based team will be at Air Cargo SEA to meet with many of our airline’s clients. They will further explain our technological advances with our sophisticated Digital Suite. And review the powerful service combination unique to ACL Airshop: short-term leasing solutions, plus long-term multi-year contracts. The Company covers that full spectrum, with high marks for service and responsiveness.
A sneak peek inside Amazon’s new aircraft that will transport more packages with each flight

Amazon Air’s A330 takes its first flight as part of the latest addition to the global aircraft fleet

Just under a year ago, Amazon announced it was adding 10 Airbus A330s to its global aircraft fleet. These A330s aren’t just the first of their kind in our fleet. They’ll also be the newest, largest aircraft for Amazon Air, allowing us to transport more customer packages with each flight.

Amazon Air has undertaken the “first in-service flight” with the first of 10 A330-300P2F (passenger to freighter) aircraft that it has leased for operation by Hawaiian Airlines.

“The Amazon Air Hub teams have been training on the new aircraft, and October 2 marked the first in-service flight for this exciting new addition,” said Amazon in a press statement on October 2.

The company added: “These A330s aren’t just the first of their kind in our fleet. They’ll also be the newest, largest aircraft for Amazon Air, allowing us to transport more customer packages with each flight.”

Lessor Altavair is providing the freighters, which are being converted by Germany-headquartered Elbe Flugzeugwerke (EFW), a joint venture between Singapore-based ST Engineering and France-headquartered Airbus.

Amazon first announced its deal with Altavair and Hawaiian in October last year.

In July, Hawaiian Airlines confirmed it had received the first of the 10 freighters, which it said was due to start operating in October.

The agreement with Hawaiian will last for eight years with options to extend for a further two and three years.

Although Amazon continues to expand its fleet, it has recently made some operational changes that may reflect the challenging market conditions for the air cargo industry.

The rollout of the first A330-300F follows Amazon Air’s recent announcement that it will close its airfreight facility at Leipzig/Halle Airport in Germany, its first-ever regional air hub in Europe, by the end of this year.

And in July this year, Amazon Air also confirmed it was reducing the number of flights it carries out in Europe, after rapidly ramping up operations over the last few years.

There have also been fleet reductions in the US.
Aberdeen International Airport is celebrating after being named Hub of the Year at the National Transport Awards last night (5 October).

The prestigious awards were held at the Park Plaza in London with more than 500 industry professionals in attendance.

The north-east’s major transport hub was shortlisted in three awards including Hub of the Year and Best Practice in Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility.

Communications Manager Lee McCann was Highly Commended in the Frontline Employee/Community Champion category for the charity partnership with Kayleigh’s Wee Stars and We Too!

Aberdeen International Airport’s work following the passing of Her Majesty the Queen last year was recognised by the judges.

The service provided by Aberdeen International Airport to passengers with reduced mobility was also highlighted, The UK’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) gave the airport the highest rating possible of “Very Good” for its consistent and high-quality service.

Mark Beveridge, Operations Director at Glasgow Airport, said: “We are absolutely thrilled to win the Hub of the Year Award.

“Aberdeen International Airport has so many different companies working across its campus and this award is a testament to the hard work of everyone who delivers for our customers every day.

“Passengers are at the heart of everything we do and charity partnership with Kayleigh’s Wee Stars and We Too! is a perfect example of what our airport can do for as well as providing the connectivity that helps our region thrive in a global facing economy,”

Richard Holden MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport provided the keynote speech for the event hosted by broadcaster Jeremy Vine.
Menzies Aviation appoints new Executive Vice President of Air Menzies International (AMI)

Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world’s airports and airlines, has announced the appointment of Carlos Font, as the new Executive Vice President of Air Menzies International (AMI).

Based in Barcelona, Spain, Carlos has 20-plus years of experience in digital innovation and freight forwarding. He will be responsible for driving the company’s ambitious growth plans, including developing AMI’s innovation and digital capabilities.

Following a competitive recruitment process, he joins Menzies Aviation from Shipa Freight and iContainers, a digital freight forwarder, where he has been CEO since 2019. Prior to Shipa, he held numerous roles in the supply chain industry including with DSV – Global Transport and Logistics and UTI Worldwide. Over his career, Carlos has overseen large-scale digital transformation programmes, international supply chain, and transportation networks, as well as utilizing data, and digital tools to optimize decision-making and operational efficiency.

Philipp Joeinig, CEO, Menzies Aviation, said: “I am delighted to welcome Carlos to Menzies Aviation as our new Executive Vice President of Air Menzies International (AMI). I look forward to working with him to develop AMI’s innovation and digital capabilities while also progressing our growth ambitions for this very important division within Menzies.”

Carlos Font will join Air Menzies International (AMI) on 1 December 2023, replacing Jonathan Clark who has decided to take on a new role.

Saudia Cargo appoints Loay Mashabi as new Managing Director

In his new capacity, Mashabi will oversee several functions and strategic initiatives to maintain Saudia Cargo’s growth trajectory

Saudia Cargo, the air freight wing of Saudi Arabia’s flag carrier, SAUDIA, has announced the appointment of Eng. Loay Mashabi, the former Deputy Minister for Logistics Services at the Ministry of Transportation and Logistics Services, as its new Managing Director, effective 8 October.

With a solid background in the logistics sector, Mashabi has played an instrumental role in enhancing Saudi Arabia’s position as a leading logistics hub.

Throughout his career, Mashabi held various senior positions across both the private and public sectors, including his tenure as a board member of Saudia Cargo, the Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones (MODON), Riyadh Integrated (Transportation, Logistics, Supply Chain and Storage), and Saudi Exports Authority.

Collaborating closely with Saudia Cargo’s CEO, Teddy Zebitz, Mashabi will oversee several functions and strategic initiatives to maintain the company’s growth trajectory, as well as its transformation strategy to expand its dedicated freighter fleet and position itself among the world’s top 10 largest air cargo carriers in the coming years.

Zebitz expressed his enthusiasm about Mashabi’s recent appointment. “We are thrilled to have Loay on board and to welcome him to the Saudia Cargo family,” he said, emphasizing that his background and vast experience will prove to be invaluable in driving Saudia Cargo’s ambitious growth plans.

Commenting on his appointment, Mashabi said: “With this new chapter in my career, I am excited to continue serving the Saudi logistics sector and bring forth the untapped potential in the region. Saudia Cargo will, without a doubt, be just the right place to accomplish great feats in placing Saudi Arabia in the center of the logistics map.”

Mashabi holds an Executive MBA from London Business School and a BSc in Petroleum Engineering from King Fahd University.
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Atlas Air Worldwide Announces the Appointment of Martin Drew as Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer

Atlas Air Worldwide has announced the appointment of Martin Drew as Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, effective September 25, 2023. In this role, Mr. Drew will lead the Company’s comprehensive corporate strategy, including its transformational growth initiatives. Mr. Drew will report to Michael Steen, Chief Executive Officer, and serve on the Company’s Executive Leadership Team.

“We are thrilled that Martin is joining our leadership team at this exciting and pivotal moment for Atlas,” said Mr. Steen. “Martin is a highly recognized leader in aviation and will be an incredible asset to our team as we leverage our diversified business model, unrivaled global network, and best-in-class assets for long-term success. His vast experience in cargo and passenger operations, entrepreneurial leadership style, and solutions-oriented approach will help guide the Company to new heights.”

In his oversight of corporate strategy, Mr. Drew will seek to drive strategic growth and diversification across Atlas’ services, geographic footprint, and partnerships that support the Company’s mission to be its customers’ first choice and most valued partner.

“I am thrilled to join Atlas, an industry leader renowned for its unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and customer satisfaction. The Company’s strong foundation, coupled with its forward-thinking approach, has positioned it as a leading force in the aviation industry,” Mr. Drew said. “I look forward to bringing my passion for driving change and strategic mindset to make a lasting impact on the Company’s continued growth and success. Atlas’ dedication to transformation and its visionary leadership have set the stage for an exciting journey ahead.”

Mr. Drew was most recently Senior Vice President of Global Sales, Marketing, Brand, and Cargo at Etihad Airways in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. where he oversaw all aspects of Etihad Cargo and was a member of the airline’s leadership team. He first joined Etihad Airways in 2005 and during this time spent 18 months working with Jet Airways as Vice President of cargo in Mumbai, substantially growing the airline’s cargo business. He also previously held the position of Vice President of Europe and Americas with responsibility for Etihad’s activities in Europe and the Americas, including Passenger Sales, Marketing, and Alliances. Prior to that, he held senior positions at Lufthansa and DAS Air Cargo.
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