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Builds the Future of Air Cargo Through Talent, Technology and Leadership

Emirates Group
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Global Vision, Cargo Excellence:
The ATC Aviation Services Success Story

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San Francisco, USA
18 - 20 May 2026

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DEVENDER GROVER
Editor in Chief & Publisher

GAURA G BAHL
Group Editor

SAURAV CHUGH
Feature Editor

JASMINE GROVER CHUGH
Associate Editor

JITESH GANDHI
Graphic Designer & Creative Director

ANURADHA M
Inernational Sales Director

RASIKA MATHUR
Events Coordinator

RAJESH MAURYA
Head of Finance

Address changes and subscription order to
cargonewswire@gmail.com

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Profiles Media Network Pvt Ltd.
C-59, Defence Colony, Chetna Marg,
New Delhi 110024, India
Tel - +91 (124) 4111182
Mob- +91 99999 97607
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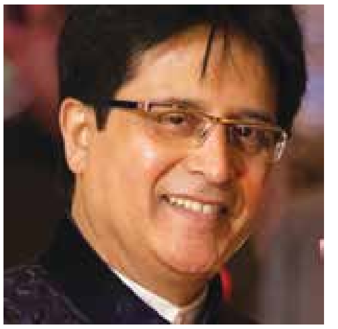

EDITOR'S NOTES

DEVENDER GROVER
cargonewswire@gmail.com

Cargo Network Services prepares for landmark 2026 Partnership Conference in San Francisco

Around 700 senior air cargo executives, airlines, forwarders, airports and logistics providers will gather in San Francisco from 18–20 May for the 35th annual Cargo Network Services conference, focusing on AI adoption, digital payments, ONE Record implementation, e-commerce growth, regulatory compliance and strategic partnerships shaping the future of U.S. and global air cargo.

Cargo industry leaders from across the United States and international markets are set to converge in San Francisco next week as Cargo Network Services (CNS), the U.S. cargo arm of International Air Transport Association, prepares to host its 35th annual Partnership Conference from 18–20 May 2026.

Held under the theme *"Elevating Air Cargo: Partnerships, Progress & Possibilities,"* the three-day event is expected to attract approximately 700 senior executives, airline representatives, freight forwarders, airports, ground handlers, digital solution providers and supply chain specialists, reaffirming its status as one of North America's most influential air cargo gatherings. The event will take place at the Hilton Union Square in San Francisco, positioning the conference in one of the world's most innovation-driven business ecosystems.

Industry leadership takes centre stage

Being held under the theme "Elevating Air Cargo: Partnerships, Progress & Possibilities", the conference is the premier networking event for the US air cargo industry, bringing together around 700 stakeholders and representatives from across the air cargo value chain. The CNS Partnership Conference combines informative plenary sessions and presentations focused on innovation and challenges in the cargo business, with a variety of networking and social events.

CNS President Alicia Lines will open the event and will be joined by numerous recognized leaders of

the cargo and aviation community, including:

• Brandon Fried, Executive Director, Airforwarder Association, who will deliver this year's keynote address.

• Kes Nielsen, General Manager of Amazon Air Cargo, will moderate a Clevel panel on how AI and technology are impacting the industry and how companies are adapting to these changes, featuring panelists Diogo Elias, CEO of Avianca Cargo; Stephanie Penarete, VP Air Product, Americas, DSV – Global Transport; and Stanislas Brun, Chief Cargo Officer, Etihad Cargo.

Further plenary sessions will focus on topics such as:

• The State of the Industry, with key insights into the current state of the U.S. air cargo industry, including economic trends, operational challenges, and market dynamics.

The popular Innovation Stage will provide a forum for topics such as:

• ONE Record Implementation: The Good, the Challenges, and the Industry Realities:

A look at how the industry is adopting One Record, with insights from key stakeholders and learnings on what it takes to move from concept to real implementation.

• Smarter Payments, Stronger Cash Flow:

Learn about CNS FlexiPay and new payment methods and how they streamline the payment process in the air cargo industry.

• Artificial Intelligence and Air Cargo: From Hype to Real Impact:

Discover how the industry is implementing AI to deliver tangible value across logistics and air cargo.

• E-commerce and Air Cargo: Scaling for Speed, Reliability, and Growth:

Industry leaders will discuss how air cargo and logistics partners are improving networks, processes, and partnerships to meet growing global ecommerce demands.

• Dangerous Goods in Air Cargo: Addressing Hidden Risks and Industry Solutions

Undeclared dangerous goods can impact the operations and safety of airlines and cargo partners. Learn how the industry is making advancements in multiple areas to strengthen detection, compliance, and riskmitigation.

• What's changing under the US ACE Export Manifest — and how should Air Cargo respond?

Industry experts will explain the key technical, regulatory, and operational impacts of the current air cargo test and how it improves accuracy, efficiency, and compliance in U.S. exports.

Innovation, regulation and digital transformation

A central feature of this year's conference is the Innovation Stage, where delegates will examine some of the most pressing issues shaping air cargo's future.

Sessions will cover implementation of IATA ONE Record, emerging digital payment solutions through CNS FlexiPay, real-world AI deployment across logistics operations, scaling infrastructure for cross-border e-commerce, and evolving compliance requirements around dangerous goods.

Regulatory updates will also feature prominently, including dedicated discussions on the U.S. ACE Export Manifest programme and its operational implications for airlines, freight forwarders and customs stakeholders.

Networking remains a commercial engine

Beyond formal sessions, CNS continues to position the event as a high-value commercial networking platform.

The traditional golf tournament returns on 18 May, while a new Napa Valley networking excursion has been introduced for non-golfing delegates. Structured Meet & Greet sessions will also allow airlines and freight forwarders to pre-schedule one-to-one meetings designed to accelerate commercial partnerships, capacity discussions and business development opportunities.

Supporting an industry that moves global trade

The conference comes at a pivotal moment for the air cargo sector, as carriers and logistics providers navigate economic volatility, supply chain restructuring, digital transformation and shifting geopolitical trade flows.

According to CNS, air cargo moves approximately 180,000 tonnes of goods worldwide every day, while the U.S. handled 34 million tonnes of air freight in 2023, underlining the sector's critical role in global commerce, healthcare logistics, manufacturing supply chains and humanitarian operations.

As the industry gathers in San Francisco, the 2026 CNS Partnership Conference is expected to serve not only as a forum for discussion, but as a catalyst for the next generation of strategic alliances, operational innovation and commercial growth across the global air cargo ecosystem.

Event Highlights

• **Core Themes:** Plenary sessions will focus on real-world AI applications, payment digitization, e-commerce scaling, dangerous goods compliance, and the implementation of ONE Record and US ACE Export Manifest changes.

• **Key Speakers:** The keynote will be delivered by Brandon Fried (Executive Director, Airforwarder Association), followed by an executive-level AI panel moderated by Kes Nielsen (General Manager, Amazon Air Cargo).

• **CNS Connect Zone:** An open workspace featuring meeting pods designed for structured "Meet & Greet" sessions, allowing airlines and forwarders to pre-schedule meetings and discuss business partnerships.

• **Networking & Excursions:** Alongside business panels, the event will feature a Golf Tournament, a Napa Valley Excursion, and a Gala Dinner.

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Emirates SkyCargo expands freighter network to Toronto Pearson Airport

Emirates SkyCargo has launched a weekly freighter service to Toronto Pearson Airport, further strengthening air cargo links between Canada and the UAE. The new service expands cargo connectivity for Canadian businesses and supports growing bilateral trade flows.

Badr Abbas, Emirates SkyCargo's Divisional Senior Vice President said: "Our freighter service to Toronto is an important milestone for Emirates SkyCargo as we continue to strategically expand our freighter fleet and network in line with evolving trade corridors. Exports from Canada to the UAE have been growing steadily in recent years, increasing 24% year on year between 2023 and 2024 facilitated by direct air connectivity and strong bilateral trade relations.

"Our weekly freighter to Toronto further amplifies this positive momentum, providing Canadian businesses with an additional 100 tons of export capacity every week over and above belly hold cargo capacity on Emirates passenger flights. Additionally, the flight will also provide important connectivity between Canada and one of its largest trading partners, the EU, on the inbound segment with a stop at Amsterdam."

"The launch of Emirates' freighter service to Toronto Pearson is a significant milestone for our airport," said **Kurush Minocher, Chief Commercial Officer, Toronto Pearson.** "As Canada's largest air cargo hub, handling approximately 45 per cent of the country's total, we play a critical role in fueling the economy by connecting Canadian businesses to global markets. This new service provides shippers with direct, reliable access to one of the world's most expansive cargo networks and reflects continued confidence in Toronto Pearson as a strategic gateway for global trade."

EK9943 departs Dubai World Central (DWC) airport at 07.10hrs local time on Fridays arriving at Amsterdam (AMS) at 12.15hrs local time. The flight then departs Amsterdam and continues to Toronto arriving at 16.55hrs local time.

EK9944 departs from Toronto Pearson (YYZ) airport at 19.15hrs local time on Fridays, arriving at Dubai World Central (DWC) at 16.15hrs on Saturdays local time.

The freighter service from Toronto will boost exports of commodities such as pharmaceuticals, fresh produce, electronics & components as well as other general cargo, supporting Canada's high-value and time and temperature sensitive export sectors to Dubai and other parts of Emirates' network.

Between Amsterdam and Toronto, the freighter flight supports main deck cargo capacity for movement of pharmaceuticals, perishables and other manufactured goods from the EU to Canada.

Leveraging a suite of specialised transportation solutions, Emirates SkyCargo ensures that cargo will be transported swiftly and efficiently from origin to destination, helping customers build more agile supply chains.

Emirates SkyCargo is an important facilitator of trade to and from Canada since start of passenger flight to Toronto in 2007. More recently, the airline has transported over 11,000 tons of export cargo from Canada since 2023. Emirates' freighter service to Toronto supplements the bellyhold cargo capacity offered on passenger flights between Dubai and Toronto and underlines Emirates' long-term commitment to the Canadian market. In July 2023, Emirates SkyCargo also started offering cargo capacity on passenger flights to and from Montreal.

Emirates SkyCargo operates a global network spanning six continents offering cargo capacity on Emirates' fleet of over 270 aircraft including dedicated freighters. The cargo carrier has recently taken delivery of four new Boeing 777 freighters since March 2026 and will expand its fleet with a further six Boeing 777 freighter aircraft in 2026.

Customers can contact their local Emirates SkyCargo office or visit skycargo.com for more information on flights and services available to them.

ATC Aviation Services: Building a Global Cargo GSSA Powerhouse Through Experience, Strategy, and Leadership

By Devender Grover, Editor in Chief, Cargo Newswire

In an air cargo market defined by volatility, capacity shifts, and increasing demand for integrated and data-driven solutions, few organizations can match the longevity and strategic evolution of ATC Aviation Services. With roots dating back to 1971, the company has transformed from a Swiss charter brokerage into a globally integrated Cargo General Sales and Service Agent (GSSA), combining operational depth with a forward-looking commercial strategy.

History: Five Decades of Strategic Evolution

ATC's journey began in the early 1970s with the establishment of ATC Air Transport Consultants Ltd. in Switzerland as a charter broker. A defining inflection point came in 1979, when the company emerged as a pioneer in Cargo General Sales Agency services for scheduled airlines—well ahead of the broader industry shift toward outsourcing.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, ATC expanded across Europe, becoming the first GSSA organization to operate through company-owned, dedicated offices in multiple countries. This model established a new benchmark for consistency, accountability, and service quality.

A management buyout led to the formation of ATC Aviation Services Ltd., introducing the enduring corporate ethos: *"ATC – Always Takes Care."* Over time, strategic integrations and partnerships extended the company's reach across the Benelux, Africa, Asia, and the Americas, including a significant presence in the United States and Latin America. Today, ATC operates a globally connected network spanning Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia-Pacific.

Leadership and Corporate Vision

At the core of ATC's sustained growth is a leadership team defined by continuity, experience, and industry insight. **Chief Executive Officer Ingo Zimmer**, who has been with the company since 1989, embodies the organization's long-term strategic approach and relationship-driven philosophy.

Supporting him is a seasoned executive team with deep regional and functional expertise:

- **Paul Breburda,** Vice President Commercial (since 2006)
- **Dagmar Hanau,** Group Marketing Manager (since 2010)
- **Timothy Pfeil,** (since 2013)
- **Andreas Möbius,** (since 2008)
- **Mark Thiermann,** Regional Director South America (since 2018)
- **Morand Simon,** Regional Director France & Switzerland (since 1990)

The leadership philosophy is clearly articulated in the principle: *"Ideal solutions are designed by people working together to win."* This collaborative, cross-functional approach has enabled ATC to maintain consistency across markets while adapting to local regulatory and commercial dynamics.

ATC's mission—to be the world's leading Cargo GSSA—remains anchored in expertise, transparency, and high-quality service delivery, while its long-term vision focuses on global expansion and setting industry benchmarks.

CEO Perspective: Navigating Market Shifts and Driving Growth

From a strategic standpoint, CEO Ingo Zimmer underscores that the global air cargo industry continues to demonstrate resilience, with demand supported by steady cargo tonne-kilometre (CTK) growth despite ongoing geopolitical and economic uncertainty.

A central pillar of ATC's strategy is the expansion and diversification of its airline partnerships. The company has strengthened its global portfolio through new and extended collaborations across key markets in Europe, North America, and Asia. These partnerships enable airlines to expand their commercial footprint while leveraging ATC's localized expertise and established sales infrastructure.

Zimmer also highlights the impact of shifting global trade patterns—particularly evolving China–Europe flows and emerging tariff regimes—which are reshaping traditional cargo corridors. In response, ATC is aligning its network and operational strategies to remain agile and responsive to changing demand dynamics.

Chief Executive Officer Ingo Zimmer, ATC Aviation Services


Ingo Zimmer

Regional diversification continues to play a critical role in the company's growth trajectory. Markets such as South America are gaining strategic importance, both as expanding consumer bases and as integral nodes in global logistics chains. ATC's established presence in these regions positions it to capture emerging opportunities linked to e-commerce growth and supply chain realignment.

On the digital front, Zimmer takes a pragmatic view of transformation within the industry. Rather than viewing digital booking platforms and third-party tools as disruptive forces, ATC integrates them as complementary elements within its broader service model. This approach allows the company to enhance efficiency and customer engagement while retaining the core strengths of the GSSA model—relationships, market knowledge, and operational execution.

Looking ahead, ATC's strategic priorities remain focused on three key areas: expanding its global footprint, investing in digital and analytical capabilities, and deepening partnerships with airline clients. Additional airline partnerships are expected to further strengthen its position in the global cargo ecosystem.

Total Air Cargo Management: A Differentiated Approach

ATC's service portfolio extends well beyond traditional cargo sales, encompassing what it defines as "Total Air Cargo Management." This includes fully outsourced cargo solutions as well as hybrid models tailored to the specific needs of airline partners.

Core competencies include:

- Sales and Marketing
- Customer Service and Communication
- IT and Financial Services
- Research and Consultancy

A defining feature of ATC's approach is its investment in data analytics and market intelligence. Advanced reporting tools enable the company to monitor performance, identify trends, and support strategic decision-making for airline partners.

Its in-house IT systems provide comprehensive end-to-end solutions, covering reservations, operational workflows, financial reporting, and compliance processes such as CASS filing and billing—ensuring efficiency and transparency across multiple markets.

People as a Strategic Asset

ATC's global workforce remains a cornerstone of its value proposition. Multilingual teams with deep cultural and regulatory knowledge enable the company to deliver consistent, high-quality service across diverse regions.

The organization's emphasis on long-term employee development and leadership continuity reinforces its ability to build lasting partnerships with airlines and customers alike.

Partnering Airlines for Growth

As airlines increasingly seek specialized partners to manage cargo sales and operations, ATC has positioned itself as an extension of the airline's own organization. Its integrated approach—combining sales, operations, analytics, and consultancy—supports sustainable growth and improved performance.

The company's philosophy, "Leading through experience," reflects its commitment to delivering measurable value in an increasingly competitive and complex air cargo environment.

Positioned for the Future

With more than five decades of experience, a globally integrated network, and a leadership team grounded in industry expertise, ATC Aviation Services is well positioned to navigate the next phase of air cargo evolution.

As supply chains continue to transform and digitalization accelerates, the company's blend of experience, innovation, and collaborative leadership ensures it remains a key partner for airlines seeking resilience, growth, and long-term success in the global cargo marketplace.

Dagmar Hanau Marks 15 Years with ATC Aviation Services

Dagmar Hanau

Dagmar Hanau, Group Marketing Manager at ATC Aviation Services, has completed 15 years with the organization, underscoring a long-standing contribution to the company's global brand development and marketing strategy.

Since joining ATC in 2010, Hanau has played a central role in shaping the group's marketing and communications framework across its international network. Her tenure has coincided with a period of sustained expansion for ATC, during which the company strengthened its presence across Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia-Pacific.

In her role, Hanau has been instrumental in aligning the company's marketing initiatives with its broader corporate strategy, supporting airline partnerships and reinforcing ATC's positioning as a leading global Cargo General Sales and Service Agent (GSSA). Her responsibilities have encompassed brand management, corporate communications, and the development of integrated marketing campaigns tailored to diverse regional markets.

Colleagues and management acknowledge her consistent focus on quality, collaboration, and strategic messaging—key elements that reflect ATC's corporate philosophy of delivering high standards of service and maintaining strong relationships with partners and customers worldwide.

Hanau's 15-year milestone highlights not only her individual commitment but also ATC's broader emphasis on leadership continuity and experienced talent as critical drivers of its long-term growth and success in the competitive air cargo sector.

Leading From Within: Talent, Technology and the Future of Air Cargo Performance

How ECS Group Is Building the Next Generation of Air Cargo Leadership

In an industry where market volatility, digital transformation, and shifting global trade patterns are redefining competitive advantage, leadership has become as critical as network reach or operational scale. For ECS Group, one of the world's largest GSSA and air cargo service providers, leadership development is no longer viewed as a human resources initiative—it is a strategic business imperative.

Across the Nordic region, ECS Group has quietly built a reputation for cultivating high-performing executives from within its own ranks, creating a leadership pipeline that blends operational depth, commercial discipline, and digital intelligence. As the company continues to invest in proprietary CargoTech platforms, AI-driven analytics, and market-specific growth strategies, a new generation of leaders is emerging—executives who are equally comfortable managing airline partnerships, interpreting live market data, and turning technology into measurable yield performance.

In this exclusive conversation,**Jean Ceccaldi (CEO, ECS Group)**shares how ECS Group is redefining leadership in air cargo, why internal promotion remains central to its growth strategy, and how the Nordic region is becoming a proving ground for the next generation of digitally fluent cargo executives. From talent development and commercial accountability to AI-powered decision-making and global scalability, this discussion offers rare insight into the leadership philosophy driving one of air cargo's most ambitious transformation stories.

Q ECS Group's emphasis on internal promotion across the Nordic region appears highly deliberate. What strategic imperatives are underpinning this sustained investment in homegrown leadership?

At ECS Group, we are not "filling roles", we are building revenue drivers. Internal promotion ensures that leaders already understand how to translate market complexity into yield and profit from day one. This approach reflects a deliberate performance strategy: retain field expertise, inject commercial intensity, and scale it across markets without disruption. It secures execution speed and continuity, two decisive advantages in volatile cargo markets.

Q You have referenced the rise of a "new generation" of leaders within the organization. In practical terms, how does this cohort differ from its predecessors in terms of mindset, capability, and leadership approach?

This new generation is data-driven and commercially decisive, they don't react to markets, they anticipate and actively steer them using real-time intelligence. They combine strong operational foundations with digital command, turning tools like AI-driven pricing and analytics into direct revenue levers. Decision-making is more agile and performance-focused, with clear accountability and measurable outcomes at every level.

Q In an increasingly data-driven air cargo landscape, how critical is digital fluency as a leadership competency, particularly in advanced markets such as the Nordics?

Digital fluency is no longer optional, it is the foundation of commercial control (pricing, capacity, yield). In mature markets like the Nordics, the ability to leverage data directly translates into competitive advantage and revenue performance. ECS Group leaders are expected to operate at the intersection of data, AI, and sales execution, not delegate it.

Q Executives such as Mathias Henriksson and Marcus Móran exemplify ECS Group's internal talent pipeline. Could you elaborate on how this pipeline is structured to consistently identify, develop, and elevate high-potential individuals?

The pipeline is structured and performance-driven: it is built on early responsibility, broad exposure, and continuous commercial accountability. Leaders are developed with a clear focus on business impact, not just operational delivery. The objective is to build profiles capable of driving airline revenue across markets with immediate effect.

Q The appointment of Thomas Olesen at Skylog Denmark is seen as a continuation of this strategy. What specific attributes and achievements positioned him as the natural choice for this role?

Thomas Olesen embodies a proven internal ROI: he combines deep operational expertise with immediate commercial impact. His profile aligns perfectly with ECS Group's strategy, prioritizing continuity and

Jean Ceccaldi
(CEO, ECS Group)

acceleration rather than a simple transition. The result speaks instantly: performance is recognized within weeks, not months.

Q Skylog Denmark's rapid recognition as 'Partner of the Year' shortly after this leadership transition is noteworthy. How does ECS Group ensure continuity of performance during periods of managerial change?

At ECS Group, leadership transitions are designed as performance accelerators rather than recovery phases: successors are already fully integrated in the operations. The digital infrastructure ensures full transparency and eliminates any operational blind spots during handovers. The standard is clear: revenue continuity is non-negotiable, and performance is expected to accelerate, something reflected in the awards secured immediately after the transition.

Q The Nordic market is both highly competitive and digitally mature. How are your newly appointed leaders being equipped to navigate this environment while sustaining commercial momentum?

We provide our leaders with real-time market intelligence tools, such as Apollo, AI-driven pricing solutions, and demand data, so they can stay ahead of the competition. They operate within a global performance framework while retaining autonomy to actively capture local opportunities. Expectations are explicit: protect yield, capture high-value verticals, and grow faster than the market.

Q ECS Group continues to invest in proprietary CargoTech solutions such as Apollo and SkyPallet. How are these platforms influencing leadership decision-making and enhancing commercial outcomes?

These platforms are changing how our leaders operate, shifting them from reactive management to a more proactive approach to commercial decision-making. Apollo,

developed by ECS Group's Digital Factory, provides real-time market intelligence, while SkyPallet, created by Wiremind, a member of our partner CargoTech, helps them optimize load factors and capacity utilization. The impact is tangible: stronger pricing decisions, improved capacity utilization, and measurable revenue performance.

Q With a strong global network and localized operations, how does ECS Group strike the right balance between regional autonomy and centralized strategic alignment?

ECS Group operates on a centralized strategy with a decentralized execution model: a global vision, monetized locally. A strong governance framework ensures alignment on KPIs and performance, while giving local teams the commercial agility they need. This balance is what allows ECS Group to scale performance across 59 countries without losing speed.

Q While internal progression strengthens continuity, how do you mitigate the risk of organizational insularity and ensure a steady influx of new ideas and innovation?

Internal promotion is complemented by constant exposure to global best practices and cross-market benchmarks. Digital tools and shared data create transparency across regions, leaving no room for silo thinking. The culture is performance-driven: ideas are validated by results, not tenure.

Q From a strategic standpoint, what role do you envision the Nordic region playing in ECS Group's future growth, particularly as a hub for leadership development and digital advancement?

The Nordic countries serve as a real-time testing ground for cargo management that is both high-performing and firmly digital-first. They act as a leadership incubator, shaping profiles capable of scaling at a global level. Strategically, the region is positioned to drive innovation in yield management, digital adoption, and premium cargo segments.

Q Finally, what guidance would you offer to the next generation of ECS professionals aspiring to leadership roles within this evolving organizational framework?

My advice to the next generation of ECS professionals is clear: master data, not just operations, because the future belongs to those who can translate intelligence into revenue. Be commercially relentless: every decision must impact yield, capacity, or customer value. Move fast, take ownership, and treat every market like a profit center, not a territory.

To Conclude, As the air cargo industry enters a new era shaped by digital intelligence, commercial agility, and relentless market volatility, ECS Group's leadership philosophy offers a compelling blueprint for sustainable growth. By prioritizing internal talent development, empowering executives with advanced CargoTech capabilities, and embedding accountability into every layer of decision-making, the company is building far more than a management pipeline — it is creating a globally scalable leadership ecosystem. The Nordic region, with its digitally mature and performance-driven environment, has become a strategic incubator for this transformation, producing leaders equipped to navigate both operational complexity and evolving customer expectations. For ECS Group, the future of air cargo leadership will not be defined solely by experience, but by the ability to convert data into strategy, technology into revenue, and vision into measurable commercial performance.

SAS: Lack of sustainable fuel could push aviation into new energy crisis

Europe risks a fuel shock as sustainable jet fuel supply falls far behind the 2030 mandate, a new SAS Aviation Insights report shows. Without rapid buildout, the shortfall could push up fares, force route cuts and deepen Europe's energy vulnerability at a moment when global fuel markets are already under pressure.

SAS warns that Europe is heading toward a structural shortage of e-SAF (electro-sustainable aviation fuel) just as the EU's ReFuelEU Aviation regulation enters into force. The new report, "The Need for e-SAF in Scandinavia," shows that demand for e-SAF will rise sharply from 2030, while no European production facility has yet reached Final Investment Decision (FID).

"*What we are seeing now is a reminder of how exposed Europe remains to global fuel shocks. If we fail to build domestic eSAF production, we risk creating a second vulnerability, this time inside a regulated system where demand is mandated but supply is not. This is a structural issue that will affect ticket prices, route networks and Europe's competitiveness unless we act now*," says Mads Brandstrup Nielsen, Senior Vice President Communication, Public Affairs & Sustainability at SAS.

A narrowing window for action

According to the report, Scandinavian aviation alone will require 36.000 tons of eSAF in 2030, rising to more than 160.000 tons by 2035 and 330.000 tons by 2040. This corresponds to the output of one dedicated production plant by 2032, increasing to 2–3 plants by 2035 and around 5 plants by 2040. Today, none exist in Europe.

In a structurally short market, eSAF prices are expected to move toward the cost of noncompliance under EU regulation, a level several times higher than today's fossilbased jet fuel. This could significantly increase operating costs for airlines and put pressure on European connectivity.

The report outlines two possible paths: either Europe scales back ambition under RefuelEU, delaying aviation's netzero transition, or accelerates production through targeted policy support, investment incentives and infrastructure development.

"*Europe now has a very short window to decide whether it wants to lead or follow in the next phase of clean aviation. Building eSAF production is not only about meeting a mandate, it is about securing longterm energy stability, protecting connectivity and keeping European industry competitive in a world that is moving fast. Without accelerated investment, we risk higher costs for passengers, weaker networks for businesses and a new strategic dependency that will be far harder to unwind later*," Brandstrup says.

The report concludes that without urgent action, Europe risks locking itself into a longterm imbalance in sustainable aviation fuel production, leaving the sector exposed to both regulatory and market shocks.

Qatar Airways Cargo Enhances Global Network with New Destinations, Route Resumptions and Capacity

These network enhancements increase the carrier's overall cargo capacity by 12 percent
It is the first airline to operate belly-hold flights from Middle East to Caracas and Bogotá

Qatar Airways Cargo, the world's leading air cargo carrier, has expanded its global capacity with the relaunch of Boeing 777 freighters to the Austrian capital city Vienna while adding a second Boeing 777 freighter to Warsaw, the capital and largest city of Poland. The freighter to Vienna will operate on the Doha – Budapest – Vienna – Doha route, while the additional Warsaw freighter will operate on the Doha – Budapest – Warsaw – Doha route, unlocking additional cargo capacity. The airline has also enhanced its passenger network, announcing new destinations Caracas, Venezuela, and Bogotá, Colombia, commencing from 22 July 2026.

Qatar Airways is relaunching flights to Helsinki on 15 July 2026 and Tokyo Haneda on 16 July 2026. The airline is also ramping up frequencies across its network starting in May. With these network enhancements, Qatar Airways Cargo is able to offer significant bellyhold cargo capacity to key international destinations, alongside its scheduled freighter services, to better support customer demand and global trade.

Strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, the airline's hub at the awardwinning Hamad International Airport serves as a critical enabler of global trade. Enhanced connectivity across major trade lanes continues to strengthen Qatar Airways Cargo's role as a trusted link between East and West.

Enhanced freighter and belly-hold cargo capacity for May 2026 except when indicated by the date:

Africa

- Addis Ababa: Upgrade from B787 to B777 passenger flights.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 44+ tonnes.

- Tunis: Increased to 10 weekly passenger flights (from 7 weekly).

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 105+ tonnes.

Americas

- Caracas, via Bogotá: New passenger destinations with twice weekly flights.

Total belly-hold capacity each way: 20 tonnes.

- Dallas: Increased to 10 weekly passenger flights (from 7 weekly).

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 54 tonnes.

- Houston: Increased to 5 weekly passenger flights (from 3 weekly).

2 weekly freighter flights also offer 200 tonnes of capacity each way.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 228 tonnes.

- New York: Increased to 14 weekly passenger flights (from 11 weekly).

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 88 tonnes.

- São Paulo: Increased to 14 weekly passenger flights (from 11 weekly).

4 existing weekly freighter flights also offer 400 tonnes of capacity, each way.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 479+ tonnes.

Asia

- Dhaka: Increased to 17 weekly passenger flights (from 14 weekly).

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 315+ tonnes.

- Hong Kong: Increased to 14 weekly passenger flights (from 10 weekly).

42 existing weekly freighter flights also offer 4,200 tonnes of capacity each way.

Total cargo capacity each way per week: 4,474+ tonnes.

- Kathmandu: Increased to 21 weekly passenger flights (from 14 weekly).

Total cargo capacity each week, each way: 270+ tonnes.

- Kuala Lumpur: Increases to 21 weekly passenger flights (from 14 weekly), effective 16 June.

With these network enhancements, Qatar Airways Cargo is able to offer significant bellyhold cargo capacity to key international destinations, alongside its scheduled freighter services, to better support customer demand and global trade.

3 existing weekly freighter flights offer 300 tonnes of capacity each way.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 683+ tonnes.

- Shanghai: To be increased to 10 weekly passenger flights (from 7 weekly) from 1 June.

8 weekly freighter flights also offer 800 tonnes of capacity each way.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 985+ tonnes.

- Tokyo Haneda: Relaunches on 16 July with 4 weekly passenger flights, increasing to 7 weekly flights on 1 August.

Total belly-hold capacity initially 60 tonnes, increasing to 105 tonnes on 1 August.

Europe

- Helsinki: Relaunches on 15 July with 4 weekly passenger flights, increasing to 7 weekly flights on 1 August.

Total belly-hold capacity was initially 40 tonnes, increasing to 70 tonnes on 1 August.

- Istanbul: Increased to 17 weekly passenger flights (from 14).

2 existing weekly freighter flights from Istanbul.

Total belly-hold cargo capacity per week, each way: 190 tonnes.

Total freighter capacity: 200 tonnes each week from Istanbul only.

- Vienna: Increased to 7 weekly passenger flights (from 4 weekly) and one new weekly freighter service.

Total belly-hold cargo capacity per week, each way: 73+ tonnes.

Total freighter capacity: 100 tonnes each week from Vienna only.

- Warsaw: Increased to 2 weekly freighter flights (from 1).

7 existing weekly belly-hold flights and 1 existing weekly freighter offer 173+ tonnes of capacity each way.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 273+ tonnes.

Middle East

- Amman: Increased to 14 weekly passenger flights (from 7 weekly).

1 weekly freighter flight also offers 100 tonnes each way.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 291+ tonnes.

- Baghdad: Relaunched with 2 weekly wide-body passenger flights.

1 weekly freighter flight also offers 100 tonnes of capacity each way.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 115 tonnes.

- Basra: Relaunch of 4 weekly wide-body passenger flights.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 51+ tonnes.

- Beirut: Increased to 14 weekly passenger flights (from 7 weekly).

1 weekly freighter flight also offers 100 tonnes of capacity each way.

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 275+ tonnes.

- Dammam: Increased to 21 weekly passenger flights (from 14 weekly).

Total cargo capacity per week, each way: 351+ tonnes.

All Qatar Airways Cargo products are available on these flights and can be booked through the air cargo carrier's Digital Lounge and local Qatar Airways Cargo sales teams, with capacity open for customer bookings.

LATAM Cargo retains floral freight crown for fourth consecutive year as Mother's Day exports reach 24,400 tonnes

LATAM Cargo has once again secured its position as South America's leading floral air freight operator, completing its **2026 Mother's Day peak season** with the transport of **24,400 metric tonnes of fresh flowers** from Colombia and Ecuador to major consumer markets worldwide—marking the **fourth consecutive year** the carrier has led the region's flower export market.

The 21-day operation, one of the most demanding seasonal programmes in the global perishables supply chain, was coordinated through three of South America's principal floriculture export gateways—El Dorado International Airport, Mariscal Sucre International Airport, and José María Córdova International Airport—with more than **430 dedicated flights** deployed to meet international demand ahead of one of the world's most commercially important flower retail periods.

The operation underscores LATAM Cargo's growing dominance in temperature-sensitive perishables logistics, supported by a carefully synchronised strategy built around **commercial foresight, advance capacity planning and operational precision**. According to Claudio Torres Faini, International Commercial Director for South America, the close alignment between LATAM's commercial and operational teams provides both growers and importers with the confidence to make time-sensitive export commitments backed by guaranteed capacity and consistent service reliability.

To manage the surge in demand, LATAM more than doubled its ground handling workforce compared with a standard operational week, reinforcing ramp operations, warehouse handling and supervisory teams across all three export hubs. This additional manpower enabled the carrier to maintain service continuity while handling cargo volumes equivalent to approximately **560 million flower stems**—an average of more than **300 stems every second** leaving South America during the seasonal peak.

The United States continued to account for the largest share of flower exports, reflecting its long-standing position as the principal destination for Colombian and Ecuadorian floriculture products. However, LATAM reported significant growth across non-traditional markets, with **Europe, Oceania, Chile and Brazil** all posting strong year-on-year increases, highlighting the expanding geographic diversification of South America's fresh flower trade.

Behind the scenes, LATAM worked closely with growers, exporters and logistics partners, receiving volume forecasts several days ahead of shipment cut-offs. This advance visibility allowed the airline to accurately allocate aircraft capacity, warehouse resources and staffing levels across the supply chain—from cargo acceptance to final uplift—ensuring product freshness and on-time delivery throughout the network.

The success of the Mother's Day programme further strengthens LATAM Cargo's strategic position in the global perishables sector, where flowers remain one of South America's most valuable air-export commodities. Colombia and Ecuador continue to rank among the world's largest exporters of cut flowers, making reliable air connectivity critical to supporting growers, wholesalers and retail supply chains across North America, Europe and emerging international markets.

As seasonal demand for perishables continues to rise and consumer markets diversify, LATAM Cargo's latest

performance reinforces the carrier's role not only as a freight operator, but as a key logistics partner underpinning one of Latin America's most important export industries.

Story highlights / Key takeaways

- **Fourth consecutive year at the top:** LATAM Cargo has retained its position as South America's leading carrier for floral air exports during the Mother's Day season.
- **24,400 tonnes moved in 21 days:** The carrier transported **24,400 metric tonnes of fresh flowers** from Colombia and Ecuador during the 2026 seasonal peak.
- **430+ dedicated cargo flights:** The operation was supported by more than **430 dedicated freighter flights** from key flower-export hubs in Bogotá, Quito and Medellín.
- **560 million stems delivered worldwide:** The volume handled equates to approximately **560 million flower stems**, averaging over **300 stems per second** shipped across three continents.
- **Ground handling capacity doubled:** LATAM more than doubled staffing levels across ramp, warehouse and supervisory operations to support the seasonal surge.
- **The US remains the dominant market:** The United States continued as the largest destination market, while exports to **Europe, Oceania, Chile and Brazil** recorded notable growth.
- **Planning-driven execution:** LATAM attributes success to advance capacity planning, close coordination with growers and integrated freighter-plus-bellyhold operations.
- **Floriculture supply chain leadership:** The result reinforces LATAM's strategic role in supporting one of South America's most valuable perishables export industries.

Etihad launches Dhaka services, strengthening trade and cargo links between the UAE and Bangladesh

- *Seasonal four-times weekly service from 26 June till 24 October 2026*
- *Enhances cargo capacity across key trade corridors while supporting strong passenger demand*
  Strengthens links between the UAE and Bangladesh, serving one of the largest diaspora communities globally

Abu Dhabi, UAE - Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, will launch a seasonal service to Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 26 June 2026, strengthening trade and cargo links across the South Asia corridor, while responding to strong and sustained demand for travel and logistics between the UAE and Bangladesh.

The four-times weekly service to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (DAC) will strengthen connectivity between Abu Dhabi and Bangladesh, while supporting the continued expansion of cargo flows alongside passenger demand across the airline's global network, with Abu Dhabi serving as a key gateway for trade between South Asia and international markets.

Operated by Etihad's Boeing 777 aircraft, the service will offer 28 Business and 374 Economy seats, providing significant widebody belly hold capacity to support growing cargo flows, alongside passenger demand, on a route that is critical for

trade, business connectivity and family travel.

The service forms part of Etihad's phased approach to rebuilding and expanding its network, with capacity deployed in line with demand across key markets.

Antonoaldo Neves, Etihad's Chief Executive Officer, said: "Dhaka is a strategically important market, with strong and sustained demand across both passenger and cargo segments. This service allows us to deploy capacity where it is most needed, strengthening links between Bangladesh, the UAE and key global markets.

"This service allows us to deploy capacity where it is most needed, strengthening trade flows between Bangladesh, the UAE and key global markets.

"The route plays an important role in supporting export-driven industries, particularly in sectors such as textiles, while enhancing Abu Dhabi's connectivity across South Asia." The UAE is home to one of the largest Bangladeshi communities in the world, and the new service will provide a direct and efficient link for families, alongside seamless onward connections via Abu Dhabi.

Bangladesh continues to see strong economic growth, underpinned by its globally significant garment and textile sector. The introduction of widebody capacity on the route will enable the reliable and efficient movement of cargo, particularly for Bangladesh's garment and textile sector, supporting exporters with improved access to markets across the Middle East, Europe and North America.

The seasonal service will also open valuable connections for the significant Bangladeshi diaspora communities in the United Kingdom, Italy and North America, who will be able to travel via Abu Dhabi to Dhaka with ease. The route will serve both point-to-point travellers between Abu Dhabi and Dhaka, as well as those connecting beyond.

Dhaka Flight Schedule from 26 June to 24 October 2026

Flight	From	Departure	To	Arrival	Days	Aircraft
EY382	Abu Dhabi	22:00	Dhaka	04:50	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat	B777
EY383	Dhaka	21:35	Abu Dhabi	00:40	Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun	B777

Flights are on sale now with fares starting from 199 USD one-way from Abu Dhabi.

Air France-KLM Cargo Volumes Rise as Revenues Slip in Mixed First Quarter

The cargo division of Air France-KLM delivered a mixed performance in the first quarter of 2026, with solid volume growth offset by declining revenues and mounting external pressures, including currency fluctuations and an evolving geopolitical landscape.

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo reported a 3.5% year-on-year decline in cargo revenues to €600 million, despite handling higher shipment volumes during the period. Total cargo volumes increased by 4% to 234,000 tonnes, while cargo traffic rose 3.8% to 1.8 billion revenue tonne kilometres (RTK), reflecting sustained demand across key trade lanes.

Capacity expansion remained measured, rising 2.9% year-on-year. As demand outpaced available capacity, the cargo load factor improved marginally by 0.4 percentage points to 49.4%, indicating more efficient utilisation of available space. However, this operational progress was not sufficient to offset declining yields.

The group attributed the revenue drop partly to a high comparative base in the first quarter of 2025, when air cargo rates surged due to shippers accelerating shipments ahead of anticipated U.S. tariff changes. This "front-loading" effect temporarily boosted pricing last year, creating a tougher benchmark for 2026.

Currency movements also weighed on performance, particularly the weakening of the U.S. dollar over the past year. At constant currency, unit revenues per available tonne kilometre were below prior-year levels in January and February, despite strong underlying demand driven by shifting trade patterns and tariff-related dynamics.

Market conditions shifted in March, when capacity constraints linked to the ongoing Middle East conflict tightened global supply. This disruption supported a short-term rebound in yields and unit revenues, partially mitigating earlier weakness in the quarter.

At the group level, Air France-KLM reported a 4.4% increase in total revenues to €7.5 billion, alongside a significant improvement in operating performance. The operating result narrowed sharply to a loss of €27 million, compared with a €328 million loss in the same period last year, reflecting stronger network performance and disciplined cost management.

The broader network segment, which includes both passenger and cargo operations, emerged as a key driver of improvement, benefiting from higher unit revenues and reduced industry capacity in certain markets. Strategic adjustments, including capacity redeployment and targeted surcharges, enabled the group to respond to geopolitical disruptions with agility.

Despite these gains, the airline faces a substantial cost headwind in the months ahead. The group has warned that its total fuel bill could reach $9.3 billion in 2026—an increase of $2.4 billion compared with the previous year. While the impact was limited in the first quarter due to hedging strategies, a significant portion of the cost increase is expected to materialise from the second quarter onwards.

Management has highlighted fuel as the primary near-term risk, projecting a $1.1 billion impact in the second quarter alone. This comes amid continued geopolitical uncertainty and volatile energy markets, which are expected to influence both operating costs and capacity planning.

Looking ahead, the group remains cautiously optimistic, citing resilient demand, a diversified global network, and ongoing fleet modernisation efforts as key strengths. However, the divergence between volume growth and revenue performance in the cargo segment underscores the continued pressure on yields in an increasingly complex and competitive air freight market.

SF Group Selects Singapore Changi Airport as First Overseas Hub to Accelerate Asia-Pacific Cargo Growth

Chinese logistics giant SF Group has selected Singapore Changi Airport as its first overseas air cargo hub, marking a significant step in its strategy to expand across Southeast Asia, South Asia and Oceania.

The move is formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Changi Airport Group, positioning Singapore as a central node in SF's regional and intercontinental logistics network. The partnership is designed to strengthen cargo flows between Asia-Pacific markets and global trade lanes, leveraging Singapore's established role as a consolidation and transshipment gateway.

Strategic expansion into high-growth markets

The agreement reflects SF Group's ambition to capitalise on sustained economic growth across the Asia-Pacific region, where intra-regional trade and cross-border e-commerce volumes continue to accelerate. By anchoring its first overseas hub at Changi, SF aims to enhance transit efficiency, improve delivery timelines and scale its network capabilities in some of the world's fastest-growing logistics corridors.

Both parties emphasised that the collaboration will focus on high-value and time-sensitive cargo, aligning with evolving supply chain requirements that demand speed, reliability and integrated handling solutions.

Yam Kum Weng, Chief Executive Officer of Changi Airport Group, said the airport operator is committed to supporting SF's expansion by strengthening air connectivity and enhancing logistics capabilities at the hub. Meanwhile, Dick Wong, Chairman and Executive Director of SF Group, highlighted that deeper cooperation with CAG would allow the company to optimise resources across key regional markets while delivering more competitive cross-border logistics solutions.

Strengthening Singapore's hub status

Singapore's geographic position and advanced logistics ecosystem were central to the decision. Changi Airport already functions as a major global air cargo hub, offering extensive connectivity and infrastructure tailored to transshipment and consolidation operations.

The addition of SF Group's regional hub operations is expected to further reinforce Singapore's role in global supply chains, particularly for high-value goods moving between Asia and other international markets.

Backed by a powerful air cargo network

SF Group's expansion is underpinned by its aviation arm, SF Airlines, which operates the largest freighter fleet in China, with more than 90 aircraft. The airline already runs daily cargo services between Singapore and Shenzhen, providing a strong operational foundation for scaling hub activities at Changi.

As one of the world's leading integrated logistics providers, SF Group's decision to establish its first overseas hub in Singapore signals growing confidence in the region's long-term trade outlook. It also highlights the increasing importance of strategically located air cargo hubs in navigating a complex and rapidly evolving global logistics landscape.

Turkish Cargo and Air China Cargo Launch Chengdu–Istanbul Partnership to Strengthen China–Turkey Air Freight Corridor

A new strategic collaboration between two major global air freight operators is reshaping connectivity between Asia and Europe, as Turkish Cargo and Air China Cargo launch scheduled freighter services linking China and Turkey through a dedicated Chengdu–Istanbul corridor.

The agreement introduces three weekly cargo frequencies between Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport and Istanbul Airport, marking a significant expansion of east–west air cargo capacity at a time of sustained demand growth across Asia–Europe trade lanes.

Strengthening a Key Eurasian Logistics Bridge

Under the partnership, Air China Cargo is operating scheduled freighter services on the route, integrating into Turkish Cargo's global distribution network centred at Istanbul. The arrangement enhances connectivity from China's western manufacturing and export hub in Chengdu to a broad range of international destinations via Türkiye's strategic transcontinental hub position.

Turkish Cargo stated that the new corridor will enable more efficient distribution across its global network

while reinforcing Istanbul's role as a central transfer point linking Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

The introduction of three weekly frequencies adds incremental capacity to an already highly competitive Asia–Europe cargo market, where demand has been shaped by e-commerce expansion, electronics manufacturing, and time-sensitive industrial supply chains.

Fleet Capacity and Operational Synergies

While aircraft deployment details have not been formally disclosed, Air China Cargo operates a mixed wide-body freighter fleet including Boeing 777 freighters, Boeing 747-400Fs, and Airbus A330-200 passenger-to-freighter conversions. Turkish Cargo similarly operates a modern long-haul freighter fleet comprising Boeing 777Fs and Airbus A330-200Fs, with additional aircraft on order.

The carrier's future fleet expansion plans include further Boeing 777Fs and next-generation Airbus A350F freighters, aligning with broader capacity growth strategies aimed at supporting rising global cargo demand.

Industry observers note that the partnership reflects increasing cooperation between major carriers seeking to optimise network utilisation while addressing structural capacity constraints across key intercontinental routes.

Istanbul's Growing Role as a Global Cargo Hub

The Chengdu–Istanbul link further strengthens Istanbul's position as one of the most important air cargo transit hubs between Asia and Europe. Its geographic advantage enables efficient redistribution of cargo flows to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, reducing transit times and improving network flexibility for shippers.

The development aligns with Turkish Cargo's long-term infrastructure and fleet expansion strategy, which includes investments in digitalisation, terminal capacity, and dedicated e-commerce logistics capabilities.

In January, Turkish Cargo advanced its operational infrastructure with the launch of the second phase of its SmartIST air cargo terminal and a new dedicated e-commerce facility, designed to support high-volume parcel flows and improve processing efficiency across its global network.

China–Turkey Trade Corridor Expands

The new partnership underscores the growing importance of China–Türkiye trade flows, particularly as manufacturers diversify logistics routes amid shifting global supply chain dynamics. Chengdu, a key industrial and technology hub in western China, continues to strengthen its role as a major origin point for electronics, machinery, and high-value exports destined for Europe and beyond.

The addition of scheduled freighter capacity is expected to enhance resilience in the corridor, offering more predictable uplift options for exporters and freight forwarders operating between the two regions.

Strategic Fleet Expansion Supports Long-Term Growth

Turkish Airlines has outlined an ambitious long-term growth trajectory under its 2033 vision, targeting a fleet size of 813 aircraft, with the dedicated freighter segment expected to expand significantly in line with global cargo demand.

The expansion of freighter capacity is central to supporting rising volumes in e-commerce, automotive parts, pharmaceuticals, and industrial supply chains, all of which continue to drive structural growth in air cargo demand between Asia and Europe.

Outlook: Network Integration and Capacity Competition

The launch of scheduled Chengdu–Istanbul freighter services highlights a broader industry trend toward deeper inter-carrier collaboration and network integration in response to persistent capacity imbalances across global air cargo markets.

As demand for Asia–Europe connectivity remains strong, particularly from technology and manufacturing sectors, strategic partnerships such as this are expected to play a growing role in shaping capacity allocation, improving network efficiency, and supporting long-term trade flows between key economic regions.

Ecuador's floral air cargo surge lifts Quito Airport to new export milestone ahead of Mother's Day

- *Flower exports for Mother's Day from Quito's Mariscal Sucre International Airport in 2026 increased by 16% compared to the 2025 season, consolidating this date as the second most important period for flower exports by air after the Valentine's Day season.*
- *According to information gathered by Corporación Quiport, between April 16 and May 6 — over a 21-day period — approximately 24,800 metric tonnes of flowers were exported, surpassing the 21,300 metric tons exported from Quito Airport during the 2025 season.*

Ecuador's flower export sector has delivered another strong signal of resilience and global demand, with **Mariscal Sucre International Airport** recording its highest-ever Mother's Day export performance in 2026—further strengthening the airport's position as one of Latin America's fastest-growing air cargo gateways. According to **Corporación Quiport**, the operator of Quito's international airport, flower exports during the 2026 Mother's Day season rose **16 percent year-on-year**, consolidating the period as Ecuador's second most important flower export window after Valentine's Day. Between **April 16 and May 6**, over a 21-day export cycle, approximately **24,800 metric tonnes** of flowers moved through Quito by air, significantly surpassing the **21,300 metric tonnes** handled during the corresponding 2025 season. The latest performance reflects sustained momentum in Ecuador's floriculture supply chain, supported by strong international demand, coordinated airline capacity and highly specialised cold-chain handling infrastructure.

Peak-day performance highlights operational scalability

The season's busiest export day was recorded on **April 29**, when Quito processed **1,641 metric tonnes** of flower shipments in a single day—an increase of **4.1 percent** over the peak day registered during the 2025 campaign. While Mother's Day export volumes remained approximately **15 percent below Valentine's Day throughput**, the gap continues to narrow. In 2025, Valentine's volumes exceeded Mother's Day shipments by 25 percent, indicating that Mother's Day is becoming an increasingly strategic commercial period for Ecuador's floriculture exporters and air logistics partners.

Quito strengthens role as Latin America's floral cargo gateway

For **Ramón Miró**, the latest milestone reflects more than seasonal demand—it underscores Quito's emergence as a strategic cargo hub in the region. Miró said the airport has been breaking historical cargo records every year since 2022, helping position Quito among the most important air freight gateways in Latin America and the Caribbean while driving export growth and economic development across Ecuador. That growth is now being reflected in regional rankings. According to the latest cargo performance report published by **Airports Council International Latin America and Caribbean** on May 6, Quito climbed from **fifth to fourth place** among Latin America and Caribbean airports for air cargo throughput. The Ecuadorian gateway now ranks behind only **El Dorado International Airport**, **São Paulo/ Guarulhos International Airport**, and **Felipe Ángeles International Airport**, overtaking **Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport** and other major regional cargo gateways. ACI-LAC data shows Quito handled **405,024 metric tonnes of cargo in 2025**, representing an **11 percent increase year-on-year**, with flowers accounting for more than **92 percent of export cargo volumes** moving through the airport.

Cold-chain precision driving Ecuador's export competitiveness

The latest Mother's Day performance also highlights the growing sophistication of Ecuador's perishables logistics ecosystem. Quito has become a critical export platform for Ecuadorian roses and premium flowers destined primarily for the United States, Europe and emerging markets across Asia-Pacific. The airport's ability to process nearly 25,000 tonnes of temperature-sensitive cargo within three weeks demonstrates the strength of its integrated handling capabilities, airline coordination and ground logistics partnerships. At a time when perishables remain one of the most time-critical segments in global air freight, Quito's continued rise underscores how specialised cargo infrastructure, export diversification and operational reliability are reshaping the competitive landscape for Latin American cargo hubs. For Ecuador's floriculture industry—and for the airlines, handlers and freight partners supporting it—the 2026 Mother's Day season may represent more than a record. It may signal a structural shift in how seasonal perishables demand is redefining cargo flows across the region.

Turkish Airlines Chief Cargo Officer, Ali Türk

Turkish Cargo Simplifies Air Cargo Processes with Its Renewed Corporate Website

Global air cargo brand Turkish Cargo renewed its corporate website within its scope of digital transformation vision. Consolidating information and processes regarding shipment planning and operational processes into a single point, the platform offers a fast, convenient, and functional digital experience with its refined interface and its mobile-compatible infrastructure.

The website developed by Turkish Technology, the technology subsidiary of Turkish Airlines, enables shippers to manage a wide range of processes, from pre-booking to map-based cargo tracking, from a single platform. Through the interactive world map, the global flight network and served destinations can be viewed, while advanced filtering options allow connection alternatives to be evaluated directly. The platform also presents product and equipment options for different cargo types together, supported by comparative tools. Thus, the shippers can create the most convenient shipment plan by building how and where the shipment will be transported within a single stream. Continuously updated in line with user needs, the website provides a high level of predictability in planning and decision-making processes through its dynamic structure.

Commenting on Turkish Cargo's renewed website, **Turkish Airlines Chief Cargo Officer, Ali Türk** states that: *"As Turkish Cargo, we aim to establish a digital ecosystem that transforms not only the planning and booking processes, but the entire operational mindset end-to-end. The website project, as one of the pioneering steps of this vision, provides our customers with speed, reliability, and accessibility, while also making processes more integrated, transparent, and predictable for our air cargo industry partners. The platform also makes our global flight network and operational capabilities more visible and accessible, thereby facilitating shipment planning and decision-making processes. With the website developed in collaboration with our internal teams, we aim to simplify air cargo processes, increase operational efficiency, and provide a single point of response to our customers' needs. We believe that our digital transformation projects will not only enhance operational efficiency but also contribute to the development of a more integrated structure in air cargo logistics."*

Developed for the present and potential shippers, "How to Send My Cargo" page offers an experiential guide that explains the air cargo sending process from beginning to the end. Users can enter shipment details and practically review how the transportation process progresses step by step, from the planning stage to shipment. At the end of the process, Turkish Cargo's global sales offices and authorized agents are engaged for the actual shipment transactions.

The website also includes a fleet and equipment page, where shippers can identify the most suitable equipment and solutions based on their needs and submit their requests directly. The AI-powered digital assistant Cargy further enhances the user experience by enabling faster access to the desired content during site navigation.

Turkish Cargo aims to enable planning and decision-making processes to be managed in a simpler, more predictable, and more controlled manner through its corporate website, which brings its strong position in the air cargo industry into the digital world.

Air Cargo Supports Conservation: Endangered Mountain Bongos Transported to Kenya

In a significant demonstration of how aviation logistics can contribute to global conservation, Air France KLM Martinair Cargo has successfully transported four critically endangered mountain bongos from the Czech Republic to Kenya. The move forms part of a wider international effort to safeguard and restore one of the world's rarest antelope species.

The relocation is aligned with the "Return of the Bongos to Kenya" initiative, a long-term conservation programme focused on rebuilding sustainable populations of mountain bongos in their native habitat. With only an estimated 66 individuals remaining in the wild, the species faces an urgent risk of extinction, making such coordinated interventions critical.

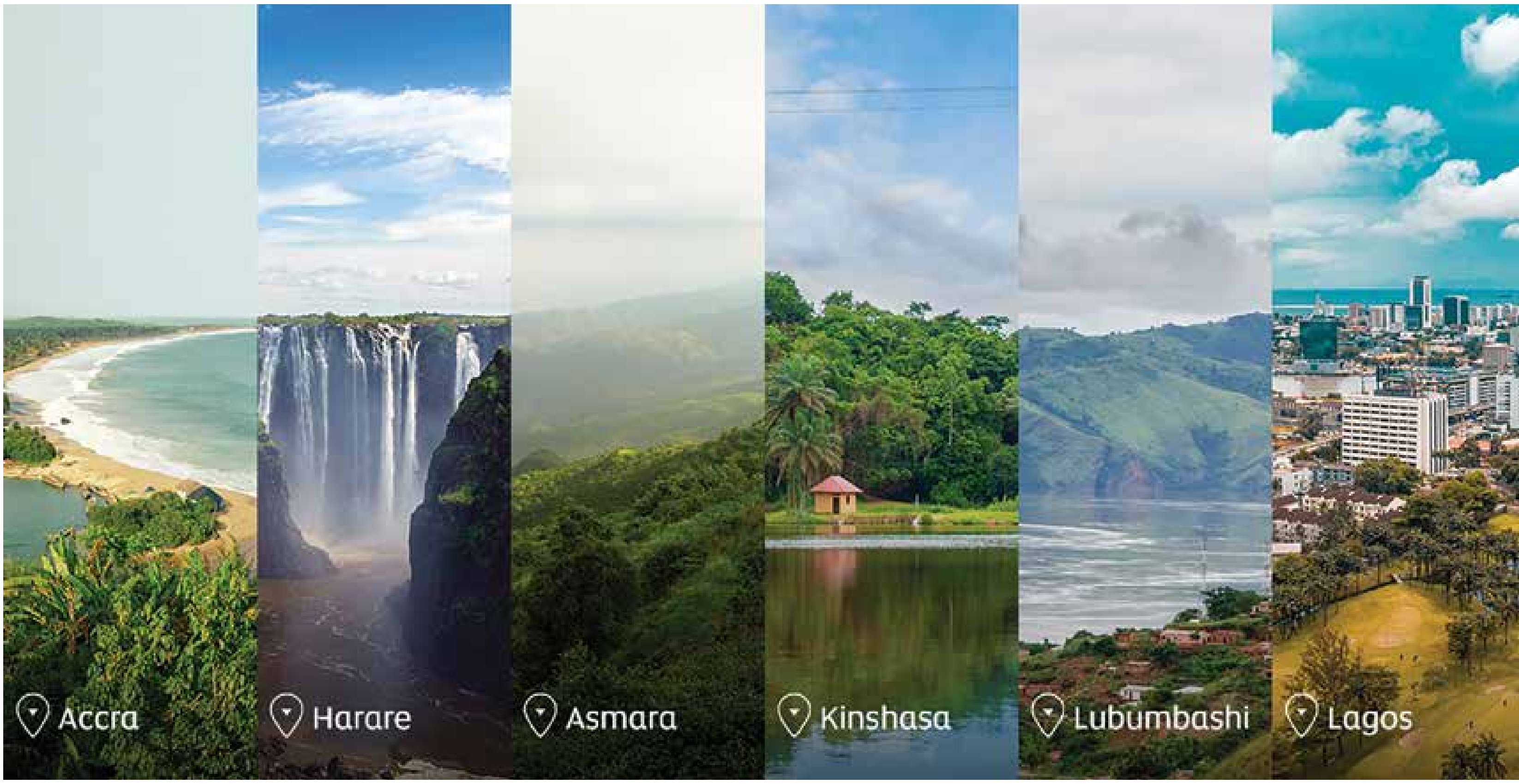
The four male bongos—carefully selected based on age, health and genetic diversity—are expected to play a vital role in strengthening breeding programmes and enhancing the genetic resilience of the population in Kenya. Their reintroduction represents a strategic step toward eventual rewilding and long-term species recovery.

The complex transport operation was executed in close collaboration with key conservation stakeholders, including the Kenya Wildlife Service, Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, alongside other international partners. The initiative underscores the importance of cross-border cooperation in addressing biodiversity loss.

Highlighting the broader implications of the mission, Air France KLM Martinair Cargo emphasised the role of global air cargo networks in supporting environmental and humanitarian objectives. The company noted that the project illustrates how specialised wildlife logistics, combined with aviation expertise, can deliver meaningful outcomes for conservation.

Beyond the immediate relocation, the initiative reflects a growing intersection between logistics and sustainability, where air cargo operators are increasingly engaged in projects that extend beyond commercial activity. By enabling the safe and efficient transport of endangered species, the sector continues to demonstrate its capacity to support critical global challenges.

It's time for Africa! Etihad Airways unveils six new destinations, expanding footprint across the continent



- *Expansion strengthens Etihad's presence across high-growth African markets, connecting the continent to Abu Dhabi and the world beyond*
- *Reinforces Abu Dhabi's role as a gateway for trade, cargo and investment flows between Africa and Asia*
- *Builds on Etihad's growing China network alongside its extensive India network, opening a new corridor linking Africa and Asia through Abu Dhabi*

Abu Dhabi, UAE - Etihad Airways today announced a significant expansion of its Africa network, adding new routes to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, Nigeria and Zimbabwe from Abu Dhabi, as part of its continued global growth strategy.

The new services reflect investment

in high-growth markets, supporting increasing connectivity across trade, cargo and mobility.

The expansion builds directly on Etihad's recently announced China growth, including increased frequencies and a deepened partnership with China Eastern Airlines. Together, these developments position Abu Dhabi as a key gateway between Africa, India and Asia, enabling more efficient movement of goods, investment and people between two of the world's fastest-growing regions.

It also aligns with growing economic ties between the UAE and Africa, with increasing trade, investment and commercial partnerships across sectors including energy, infrastructure, mining and logistics. Abu Dhabi continues to strengthen its role in enabling these flows, supporting deeper economic engagement between the regions.

In parallel, it also complements Etihad's strategic joint venture with Ethiopian Airlines, which this month marked 80 years of operations, further strengthening connectivity across the African continent.

Antonoaldo Neves, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, said: "Africa is a natural and compelling next step in Etihad's network expansion. These are markets with strong underlying demand, driven by trade, investment and population growth. Our role is to provide the connectivity that enables that growth.

"Demand for air connectivity across key African markets is outpacing existing supply, particularly in cargo and trade-linked sectors. This expansion is a direct response to that structural opportunity.

"By extending our network alongside our recent China expansion, we are enabling a more efficient corridor linking Africa, the Middle East and Asia through Abu Dhabi. For passengers, this creates simpler, faster journeys. For cargo, it provides more direct and reliable access between two regions where trade is growing rapidly."

The new services will provide direct links between African markets and Abu Dhabi, while enabling one-stop connections to China, India, across Asia and throughout the Middle East.

Destinations

Accra, Ghana One of West Africa's most welcoming and energetic capitals, where a thriving arts scene and the buzzing Osu neighbourhood make it an increasingly compelling destination.

Asmara, Eritrea A city frozen in elegant time, Asmara's UNESCO-listed modernist and art deco streetscapes lend it an otherworldly atmosphere quite unlike anywhere else on the continent.

Harare, Zimbabwe A leafy, grid-planned capital at high altitude on the Highveld, where the National Gallery, vibrant Mbare market and a warm-hearted population make it a city of charm and understated sophistication.

Kinshasa, DR Congo A major river city of some 17 million on the banks of the Congo, birthplace of soukous and rumba and home to a cultural scene of extraordinary depth and creativity.

Lubumbashi, DR Congo The copper-rich capital of Haut-Katanga province in the DRC's deep south, shaped by mining wealth, with the Lubumbashi Museum offering one of Central Africa's finest ethnographic collections.

Lagos, Nigeria Africa's largest city, a megapolis of more than 20 million people, where entrepreneurial energy and a globally influential music and food scene define the experience.

The addition of African routes enables single-connection journeys between key cities across Africa and Asia via Abu Dhabi, creating a more efficient and commercially relevant corridor for both passengers and cargo. This is particularly significant for sectors including manufacturing, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and infrastructure, where speed, reliability and direct market access are critical.

Abu Dhabi Zayed International Airport sits at the centre of these flows, offering efficient connections across Etihad's expanding global network, with geographic reach spanning Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Freight capacity will play a critical role, with Etihad Cargo, the largest freighter operator between China and the Middle East, offering belly-hold capacity across all new services, with dedicated freight products tailored to the specific export and import profiles of each destination market.

New route summary

Route	Destination	Frequency (weekly)	Launch date
AUH – ASM	Asmara, Eritrea	4	7 Nov 2026
AUH – ACC	Accra, Ghana	4	17 Mar 2027
AUH – FIH	Kinshasa, DR Congo	3	18 Mar 2027
AUH – LOS	Lagos, Nigeria	7	18 Mar 2027
AUH – HRE / FBM	Harare, Zimbabwe / Lubumbashi, DR Congo	3	24 Mar 2027

Cargolux Delivers $465 Million Net Profit in 55th Year as E-Commerce and Specialised Cargo Sustain Demand Amid Global Disruption

Global freighter operator Cargolux has reported a strong financial performance for the 2025 fiscal year, posting revenues of USD 3.406 billion and a net profit after tax of USD 465 million, underscoring its resilience in a market shaped by geopolitical volatility, shifting trade corridors, and persistent operational constraints.

The result marks a significant milestone in the airline's 55-year history, reflecting sustained profitability in a structurally complex air cargo environment where demand dynamics remain uneven across regions and sectors.

Richard Forson, President and CEO of Cargolux, said the performance reflected both operational discipline and the airline's long-standing positioning within the global freight ecosystem.

"The past year marked a milestone for the airline as we celebrated 55 years of business in a demanding and highly complex industry," Forson said. "The results we achieved this year not only reflect the hard work delivered in 2025; they highlight the legacy of dedication to high standards and passion that are the core of Cargolux's DNA."

Market Volatility Defines 2025 Operating Environment

The air cargo sector in 2025 continued to operate under sustained pressure from geopolitical tensions, trade disputes, and persistent airspace restrictions linked to conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

These disruptions contributed to the reconfiguration of global trade lanes, increased routing complexity, and higher operating costs across long-haul freight networks.

Despite these challenges, demand remained supported by two key structural drivers: cross-border e-commerce flows and specialised cargo segments, including high-value industrial goods, aerospace components, and temperature-sensitive shipments.

However, shifting trade routes and capacity constraints continued to place pressure on network efficiency, requiring carriers to adapt dynamically to evolving operational conditions.

Network Optimisation and Charter Expansion Support Performance

Cargolux responded to market volatility through active network optimisation and a strategic expansion of charter operations, enabling the carrier to maintain schedule reliability and revenue stability despite fluctuating demand patterns.

This operational flexibility allowed the airline to reallocate capacity efficiently across high-demand corridors while mitigating exposure to disrupted routes and constrained airspace regions.

The approach proved critical in sustaining financial performance throughout the year, particularly as global freighter markets experienced uneven demand recovery and regional divergence in cargo flows.

Strong Operational Metrics Reflect Efficient Utilisation

Operational performance indicators for 2025 highlight sustained efficiency across the airline's global fleet.

Cargolux recorded 149,269 total block hours and 21,789 flight cycles during the year, with average aircraft utilisation reaching 13 hours and 37 minutes per day.

The airline achieved a load factor of 65%, supported by consistent demand across long-haul intercontinental routes and stable utilisation of its dedicated freighter fleet.

Total cargo volume reached approximately 1.1 million tonnes sold, reaffirming Cargolux's position among the world's leading dedicated air cargo operators.

According to industry rankings from the International Air Transport Association, the carrier placed tenth globally in international scheduled freight tonne-kilometres, reflecting its sustained scale and global reach.

Fleet Strategy Anchored in Long-Term Renewal

Cargolux continues to operate a fleet primarily composed of Boeing 747 freighters, forming the backbone of its global long-haul network. The airline is also advancing its fleet modernisation programme with orders for Boeing 777-8F aircraft, which are expected to enhance fuel efficiency, payload capacity, and operational flexibility in the next phase of growth.

The fleet renewal strategy is designed to align with evolving environmental requirements and long-term market demand shifts, particularly as carriers face increasing pressure to reduce emissions while maintaining global coverage.

Diversified Global Network and Ancillary Operations

The airline currently serves more than 50 destinations worldwide and maintains a broad operational footprint supported by offices in over 50 countries. Its integrated trucking network extends connectivity to more than 250 destinations, enhancing first- and last-mile cargo distribution capabilities across key markets.

Beyond core freight operations, Cargolux also operates specialised aerial firefighting services through its Aquarius division, further diversifying its operational portfolio.

The group employs close to 4,000 staff globally, reflecting its position as one of Europe's largest dedicated cargo airlines.

2026 Outlook: Uncertainty and Structural Challenges Persist

Looking ahead to 2026, Cargolux highlighted continued uncertainty across global markets, driven by geopolitical instability, macroeconomic risks, and evolving regulatory frameworks.

Ongoing conflict in the Middle East continues to impact fuel pricing and supply chain stability, while concerns persist around the sustainability of e-commerce demand growth following recent fluctuations in global consumer trade flows.

In addition, regulatory changes—particularly tariffs and handling fees on low-value shipments—are expected to influence trade patterns and operational costs across key markets.

The airline also flagged increasing compliance requirements in Europe related to environmental reporting and sustainability frameworks, noting that such measures could create competitive disparities between regional and global operators if not harmonised.

Outlook: Resilience Through Flexibility

Despite these challenges, Cargolux reiterated its commitment to operational adaptability and financial resilience, emphasising its ability to adjust capacity, optimise networks, and maintain service continuity in volatile market conditions.

As global air cargo continues to evolve under the combined pressures of geopolitical fragmentation, regulatory transformation, and shifting demand structures, the airline's performance underscores the growing importance of flexibility and scale in sustaining long-term competitiveness.

AerFin and National Air Cargo Expand Teardown Logistics Partnership to Strengthen Aircraft Asset Recovery Flow

Aircraft asset specialist AerFin has deepened its collaboration with National Air Cargo through an expanded logistics partnership aimed at enhancing efficiency across aircraft teardown operations in the United States.

The agreement focuses on optimising the movement of dismantled aircraft components between key teardown and logistics hubs in Marana, Arizona, and Miami, Florida, creating a more streamlined and controlled supply chain for high-value aviation materials.

Integrated Teardown Logistics Model

The expanded partnership is designed to improve end-to-end coordination across the aircraft end-of-life value chain, ensuring faster, more secure, and better-tracked movement of components from disassembly sites to storage, resale, and redistribution channels.

By integrating logistics capabilities more closely with teardown operations, the collaboration aims to reduce turnaround times in aircraft dismantling programmes while maximising the recoverable value of components across global aftermarket demand channels.

Industry participants note that efficient teardown logistics has become increasingly critical as the commercial

aviation sector continues to manage large-scale fleet renewal cycles, driving higher volumes of retired wide-body and narrow-body aircraft into the secondary parts market.

> *The agreement focuses on optimising the movement of dismantled aircraft components between key teardown and logistics hubs in Marana, Arizona, and Miami, Florida, creating a more streamlined and controlled supply chain for high-value aviation materials.*

Expansion of a 2024 Strategic Relationship

The enhanced logistics agreement builds on an existing partnership established in 2024, when National Airlines initially supported AerFin through materials procurement and supply chain coordination activities.

That collaboration has now evolved into a more comprehensive logistics integration model, extending beyond procurement into direct operational support for teardown programmes and asset redistribution workflows.

The shift reflects a broader trend within the aviation aftermarket sector, where asset specialists and logistics providers are increasingly aligning operations to improve speed, traceability, and cost efficiency across aircraft recycling and component recovery processes.

Focus on Marana–Miami Supply Chain Corridor

A central element of the partnership is the development of a more efficient logistics corridor between Marana and Miami, two key nodes in the US aircraft teardown and distribution ecosystem.

Marana serves as a major site for aircraft storage and dismantling activities, while Miami functions as a critical logistics and redistribution hub connecting recovered components to international markets across the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

The improved coordination between these locations is expected to enhance material flow visibility, reduce handling delays, and support more predictable supply chain performance for high-demand aircraft parts.

Flexible Multi-Partner Strategy Maintained

Despite the expanded collaboration, AerFin confirmed it will continue to engage with a broader network of logistics and aviation partners across other segments of its teardown operations.

The company's approach reflects a flexible, multi-partner strategy designed to maintain resilience across global supply chains and ensure access to specialised capabilities in different regions and operational contexts.

This diversified model is increasingly common in the aviation asset management sector, where variability in aircraft types, teardown locations, and parts demand requires adaptable logistics structures.

Strategic Value Creation Across Asset Lifecycle

Simon Bayliss, Chief Operating Officer at AerFin, emphasised the importance of aligning logistics partnerships with operational requirements across the aircraft lifecycle.

He noted that the collaboration strengthens AerFin's ability to accelerate asset recovery processes while enhancing value creation through improved logistics efficiency and execution speed.

The integration of logistics planning with teardown operations is expected to support more effective inventory management and faster reintroduction of aircraft components into global supply chains.

Evolution from Procurement to Integrated Logistics Support

Alan White, Chief Growth Officer at National Air Cargo, highlighted the evolution of the relationship from initial materials procurement support into a broader logistics partnership framework.

He noted that both organisations are now positioned to jointly support increasingly complex teardown programmes, leveraging combined expertise in cargo transport, materials handling, and aviation logistics coordination.

The expanded collaboration also opens the door to potential future development opportunities in aircraft recycling, parts distribution, and end-of-life fleet management services.

Industry Context: Growing Importance of Aircraft Teardown Logistics

The agreement comes at a time when the global aviation sector is experiencing sustained fleet restructuring, driven by aircraft retirement cycles, supply chain realignment, and demand recovery across passenger and cargo markets.

As airlines continue to modernise fleets, demand for efficient teardown logistics solutions is rising, particularly for wide-body aircraft where component value recovery plays a significant role in overall asset economics.

Improved logistics integration between teardown sites and redistribution hubs is increasingly viewed as a key competitive factor in the aircraft aftermarket sector, enabling faster monetisation of assets and improved supply chain responsiveness.

Menzies Aviation unveils flagship Pearl Lounge at Copenhagen Airport as premium hospitality expansion gathers pace

Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, has refurbished its Pearl Lounge at Copenhagen Airport (CPH) as part of a global lounge transformation project.

Global aviation services provider **Menzies Aviation** has officially unveiled its newly refurbished flagship Pearl Lounge at **Copenhagen Airport**, marking another milestone in the company's multi-year global premium lounge transformation programme.

The upgraded facility, which opened to passengers on **1 May 2026**, represents a **€2.7 million investment** and forms part of Menzies Aviation's broader strategy to strengthen its premium hospitality footprint while delivering a more localised, sustainability-driven passenger experience across its global Pearl Lounge portfolio. Located in the departures terminal above **Gate C** after passport control, the redesigned Pearl Lounge spans **800 square metres** and accommodates more than **180 guests**, making it the largest facility within Menzies' global Pearl network. The refurbishment follows a three-month redevelopment programme and builds on Menzies Aviation's more than nine years of lounge operations at Copenhagen, further strengthening the company's presence across the Nordic aviation market.

Nordic design meets global premium standards

Designed to reflect Scandinavian

aesthetics and local cultural identity, the new lounge incorporates clean architectural lines, natural materials, soft lighting and open-plan layouts inspired by classic Danish design principles. Floor-to-ceiling runway-facing windows create a spacious, light-filled environment, while passengers have access to multiple dedicated zones tailored for both leisure and business travellers, including quiet relaxation areas, dining spaces, shower facilities, private workstations and a dedicated meeting room. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the lounge, alongside upgraded food and beverage offerings featuring locally inspired hot and cold dishes, salad selections, vegan and gluten-free options, as well as regional wines and draft beers.

Sustainability embedded into hospitality strategy

The Copenhagen lounge also reflects Menzies Aviation's broader **"All In"** sustainability strategy, with an emphasis on reducing operational waste, prioritising local suppliers and minimising transport-related emissions through regional sourcing. The refurbishment aligns with the company's wider ESG agenda, which recently saw Menzies achieve its global target of **25 percent electric Ground Support Equipment (GSE)** across its worldwide operations, supported by a **US$200 million fleet modernisation programme**.

Strategic expansion of the Pearl network

Speaking at the official ribbon-cutting ceremony on **30 April**, attended by senior executives from both Menzies Aviation and Copenhagen Airport, **Jo Harrison**, Senior Vice President Pearl Lounge Transformation at **Menzies Aviation**, described Copenhagen as a strategically important location within the company's European network. The event also featured **Peter Krogsgaard**, Chief Commercial Officer of **Copenhagen Airport**, alongside senior representatives from airport management and Menzies' European leadership team. "The upgraded lounge sets a new benchmark for a true premium experience and is fully aligned with CPH's strategy of delighting passengers across every touchpoint of their journey," Krogsgaard said during the launch event.

Premium travel portfolio continues to grow

The Copenhagen opening reflects Menzies Aviation's continued investment in its rapidly expanding Pearl Lounge network, which now spans **52 lounges across 18 countries**, welcoming more than **2.5 million guests in 2025**. With passenger expectations evolving and airports increasingly focusing on premium travel experiences, Menzies is positioning Pearl as a key growth platform alongside its core ground handling, cargo, fuelling and executive aviation businesses. As competition intensifies in the premium airport hospitality segment, the Copenhagen project demonstrates how aviation service providers are increasingly blending local design, sustainability and digital convenience to create differentiated passenger experiences while opening new ancillary revenue streams.

Story highlights / Key takeaways

- **€2.7 million flagship investment:** Menzies Aviation has completed a major refurbishment of its Pearl Lounge at Copenhagen Airport, reinforcing premium hospitality as a strategic growth pillar.
- **Largest in the global Pearl portfolio:** Spanning **800 sqm** and accommodating **180+ guests**, the Copenhagen facility is now the largest lounge across Menzies' network.
- **Global network expansion:** The opening strengthens Menzies' rapidly growing Pearl Lounge footprint, now covering **52 lounges across 18 countries**.
- **Nordic-inspired premium experience:** The redesigned space blends **Scandinavian aesthetics, business functionality and wellness-focused amenities** for both corporate and leisure travellers.
- **Enhanced guest offering:** Features include upgraded dining, private workspaces, quiet zones, shower suites, meeting facilities and digital media access via **PressReader**.
- **Sustainability built in:** The refurbishment aligns with Menzies Aviation's **"All In" ESG strategy**, emphasising local sourcing, waste reduction and energy-efficient operations.
- **Strategic diversification:** The Copenhagen launch highlights Menzies' continued expansion beyond ground handling and cargo into **high-value airport hospitality services**.
- **Benchmark for future lounges:** The new flagship is expected to serve as the design and service template for future Pearl Lounge developments across **Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and the Americas**.

Doncaster Sheffield Airport in Advanced Talks with Major Freight Integrator Over High-Volume Cargo Operation

The planned revival and expansion of freight activity at Doncaster Sheffield Airport has taken a significant step forward, with airport leadership confirming advanced-stage negotiations with a major international freight integrator that could see up to 20 long-haul cargo flights per week operating from the site.

If concluded, the agreement would introduce approximately 80,000 tonnes of annual airfreight throughput, positioning the airport as a substantially larger node within UK–global supply chain networks and reinforcing its strategic role in long-haul cargo connectivity.

High-Volume Integrator Operation Under Discussion

The proposed operation, currently undisclosed due to commercial sensitivity, involves a global freight integrator—an organisation operating end-to-end logistics services through its own transport assets, including aircraft, ground vehicles, and warehousing infrastructure.

According to airport officials, the prospective agreement could deliver estimated supply-chain cost savings of around £20 million annually for the operator, driven by improved routing efficiency, reduced handling fragmentation, and direct airport integration.

The planned structure would primarily involve wide-body aircraft operating international long-haul services into Doncaster Sheffield Airport at a frequency of up to 20 flights per week, significantly increasing cargo throughput at the site.

On-Airport Expansion and Employment Potential

Alongside airside operations, the integrator is understood to be considering the establishment of adjacent operational facilities, including warehousing and logistics infrastructure in proximity to the airport.

This development could generate hundreds of additional jobs across cargo handling, warehousing, ground operations, and support services, further strengthening the airport's role as a regional employment hub within South Yorkshire.

Strategic Advantage in Infrastructure and Capacity

Airport executives have emphasised the structural advantages of the site, particularly its ability to accommodate large-scale freighter operations.

Gary Winterman, Head of Cargo and General Aviation at Doncaster Sheffield Airport, highlighted the significance of the discussions, stating that the prospective partner represents a major international logistics player seeking rapid deployment of operations.

He noted that the business is not currently in discussions with alternative airports, underscoring the competitive positioning of the site and its suitability for immediate cargo expansion.

Winterman also pointed to rising market interest in the airport's cargo capabilities, with increasing enquiries linked to its infrastructure capacity, available land, and operational readiness.

Runway and Logistics Connectivity as Key Drivers

Operational capability remains central to the proposal. Simon Hinchley, Executive Director of Airport Operations, said the airport's physical infrastructure was a decisive factor in attracting large-scale freight interest.

He highlighted the airport's runway specifications—among the longest and widest in the UK for its category—allowing unrestricted handling of large wide-body freighter aircraft used in intercontinental logistics operations.

In addition to airside capacity, Hinchley emphasised the importance of multimodal connectivity, including road freight links and adjacent land availability for warehousing development, enabling full supply-chain integration from aircraft to distribution.

Recent engagement between the airport and the prospective operator has included on-site visits by senior management, with detailed assessments of operational requirements, projected cargo volumes, and infrastructure alignment.

Alongside airside operations, the integrator is understood to be considering the establishment of adjacent operational facilities, including warehousing and logistics infrastructure in proximity to the airport.

Cargo Growth Strategy and Historical Benchmarking

The airport operator, FlyDoncaster Ltd, has positioned freight expansion as a core pillar of its long-term strategy.

Director Christian Foster noted that prior to 2022, annual cargo volumes at the airport peaked at approximately 24,000 tonnes. Under the proposed arrangement, that figure could increase more than threefold in a single step change, marking a structural transformation in the airport's cargo profile.

Foster described the current level of interest as evidence of the airport's growing relevance within UK supply chain restructuring, particularly as logistics operators seek additional capacity outside traditional congested hubs.

Infrastructure Investment and Operational Readiness

The airport is currently undergoing a broader transformation programme involving investment in infrastructure, technology systems, and workforce expansion. Approximately 50 new personnel have already been recruited, with further hiring expected as operations scale.

Upgrades to terminal facilities and operational buildings are also underway to support increased cargo handling capabilities and future integration with large-scale freight customers.

Regulatory Timeline and Future Deployment

The prospective operation is being targeted for early implementation, subject to regulatory approval and airspace planning processes. Stakeholders have indicated a desire to commence operations as soon as possible, potentially ahead of the completion of the ongoing Airspace Change Process, which is scheduled to conclude in Spring 2027.

Outlook: Emerging UK Cargo Gateway

If finalised, the agreement would represent one of the most significant cargo developments in recent years for a regional UK airport, potentially repositioning Doncaster Sheffield Airport as a high-capacity long-haul freight gateway.

The combination of available infrastructure, strategic location, and integrated logistics development is increasingly aligning the airport with broader shifts in global supply chain decentralisation, where cargo operators seek flexible, uncongested alternatives to traditional hub airports.

Bengaluru Airport Cargo Business Expands 6% in FY26 as Perishables Drive Export Momentum and Network Connectivity Strengthens

Air cargo operations at Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru continued their steady upward trajectory in FY 2025–26, recording a 6% year-on-year growth in total freight volumes to 532,000 metric tonnes, underpinned by sustained export demand, expanding international connectivity, and capacity enhancements across its logistics ecosystem.

The growth reflects a balanced recovery across key cargo segments, with strong contributions from perishables, pharmaceuticals, automotive components, electronics, and cross-border e-commerce shipments. The airport's expanding airline network—comprising 15 cargo carriers operating across 38 global destinations—continues to reinforce Bengaluru's position as a key southern India airfreight gateway connecting to major hubs including Chicago, Singapore, London Heathrow, Frankfurt, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong.

Perishables Continue to Anchor Cargo Growth

Perishable cargo remained the standout segment in FY26, consolidating Bengaluru airport's position as India's leading hub for temperature-sensitive agricultural exports for the fifth consecutive year.

Among horticultural exports, rose shipments recorded particularly strong performance, with approximately 60 million stems handled during the year. Volumes increased by 38% year-on-year, while tonnage rose sharply by 64%, reflecting both higher export demand and improved handling efficiencies within the airport's cold chain infrastructure.

Mango exports also registered a 12% increase, reaching a five-year high, supported by strong international demand and improved export logistics coordination during the peak season. Coriander exports further expanded by 13% year-on-year, highlighting growing diversification within India's fresh produce export basket.

Industry stakeholders attribute this sustained growth to improved farm-to-airport integration, better temperature-controlled handling facilities, and increasing adoption of export-grade packaging and pre-cooling standards across supply chains in Karnataka and neighbouring horticultural regions.

Diversified Cargo Mix Supports Stability

Beyond perishables, Bengaluru's cargo growth was supported by consistent flows across multiple high-value sectors. Pharmaceutical shipments continued to benefit from India's expanding life sciences export base, while automotive and engineering spare parts maintained steady volumes linked to global manufacturing supply chains.

The growth reflects a balanced recovery across key cargo segments, with strong contributions from perishables, pharmaceuticals, automotive components, electronics, and cross-border e-commerce shipments.

Electronics shipments and cross-border e-commerce also contributed to overall throughput, reflecting Bengaluru's role as a growing technology and services export hub. The diversified cargo mix has helped cushion volatility in individual sectors, ensuring stable year-on-year growth despite global airfreight market fluctuations.

Expanding Network Connectivity Enhances Trade Flows

The airport's cargo performance has been closely supported by expanding international connectivity, with freighter and bellyhold capacity linking Bengaluru to key global demand centres. The presence of 15 dedicated cargo airlines has enabled greater frequency and routing flexibility, particularly for time-sensitive and temperature-controlled shipments.

Strategic connections to major transshipment hubs in Asia, Europe, and North America continue to play a critical role in facilitating export flows, particularly for perishables requiring rapid distribution into retail and wholesale markets.

Logistics Infrastructure Expansion Strengthens Capacity

A key enabler of recent growth has been the commissioning of the AISATS BLR Logistics Park, which has significantly enhanced cargo handling capacity and operational efficiency at the airport.

The integrated logistics facility has improved warehousing availability, streamlined cargo processing, and strengthened cold chain continuity for export-oriented shipments. Its development aligns with broader efforts to position Bengaluru as a multimodal logistics hub supporting both domestic distribution and international trade.

Structural Positioning as a Perishables Gateway

Bengaluru airport's continued leadership in perishable exports underscores its growing structural importance within India's air cargo ecosystem. The combination of horticultural production strength in southern India, proximity to export clusters, and dedicated cold chain infrastructure has enabled the airport to maintain a dominant position in high-value fresh produce logistics.

This leadership is increasingly significant as global demand for fresh fruits, flowers, and herbs continues to expand, particularly in Europe, the Middle East, and North America, where demand for premium-quality, air-freighted perishables remains strong.

Outlook: Capacity Expansion and Network Deepening

Airport authorities indicate that sustained cargo growth is expected to continue, supported by ongoing infrastructure investments, expanded airline partnerships, and increasing export diversification across sectors.

Future growth is expected to be driven by further integration of digital cargo systems, expansion of cold chain infrastructure, and enhanced global connectivity aimed at reducing transit times and improving supply chain reliability.

As global air cargo markets continue to evolve, Bengaluru's position as a key export gateway for perishables and high-value goods is expected to strengthen further, supported by both structural demand trends and continued infrastructure development.

Riyadh Cargo Appoints GSSA Partners Across Egypt, India, and UAE, and to Accelerate Its Global Expansion

- *Strategic appointments strengthen presence across key markets, enhance global connectivity and support scalable, digitally enabled cargo operations aligned with Saudi Vision 2030*
- *This market expansion builds on Riyadh Cargo's growing network of strategic appointments across Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and the Maldives.*
- *Partnerships anchor Riyadh Cargo across major trade corridors, reinforcing Riyadh's role as a global logistics gateway connecting Asia, Africa, Europe, and KSA*

Riyadh Cargo, the dedicated cargo division of Riyadh Air, has added three additional General Sales and Service Agents (GSSA) partners across the priority markets of Egypt, India, and United Arab Emirates taking a key step forward in its international expansion. Riyadh Cargo's presence will be strengthened in some of the world's most dynamic air freight markets, while supporting Saudi's Vision 2030 ambition to position the Kingdom as a leading global hub for trade and logistics.

As part of this rollout, Air Logistics Group India has been appointed as General Sales and Service Agent (GSSA) across India, Cargo Partners (dnata Cargo) as General Sales and Service Agent in the UAE, and M&C Aviation as General Sales and Service Agent in Egypt. These partnerships provide Riyadh Cargo with strong on-the-ground commercial representation and operational expertise across high-growth markets that sit at the crossroads of global trade, with activation progressing in phases in line with market readiness and network deployment.

These latest appointments build on Riyadh Cargo's growing global partner network, which already includes key operational and commercial relationships across major international stations. This includes SATS Saudi Arabia Company as ground handling partner in KSA with Riyadh as its hub, Worldwide Flight Services in London Heathrow, Crest Cargo Services across Pakistan, Millennium Transportation in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Envotech Aviation in Bangladesh and FlyUs in the United Kingdom supporting both online and offline sales coverage across the market, including Riyadh Cargo's recent addition of Manchester to its growing network. Together, this expanding ecosystem of partners ensures consistent service delivery, local market expertise, offline sales reach in strategic markets, and seamless cargo connectivity across key global trade lanes, while enabling a measured ramp-up of capabilities across markets.

Egypt, India, and UAE play a critical role in shaping Riyadh Cargo's network. Together, they offer access to high-volume trade flows across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, while strengthening onward connectivity into Europe and global markets via Riyadh. This network approach supports growing demand for cross-border trade and enables more efficient cargo movement across key sectors, including e-commerce, pharmaceuticals, and perishables.

Supported by a fleet of over 180 next-generation aircraft on order and a network targeting more than 100 destinations by 2030, Riyadh Cargo continues to expand its belly-hold capacity alongside integrating multi-modal solutions such as Road Feeder Services. This ensures a more seamless, end-to-end logistics offering, while contributing to the development of a resilient and connected cargo ecosystem that supports the Kingdom's non-oil growth ambitions.

Pravin Singh, Vice President of Cargo at Riyadh Cargo, said:

"Each of these markets brings distinct strengths to our network. India offers scale and sustained demand; UAE and Egypt provide strong connectivity and opportunity to scale through direct flights that will deliver strong point-to-point capability on key trade lanes. By working with experienced partners in each market, we're building a cargo network across both online and offline markets that is globally connected and locally grounded. This allows us to deliver consistent reliability, greater transparency, and more efficient experience for our customers, while continuing to scale in line with Saudi Arabia's broader logistics ambitions."

These appointments reflect Riyadh Cargo's continued focus on building a strong commercial and operational platform as it expands its global reach. With an emphasis on digital integration, strategic partnerships, and network connectivity, the company is well positioned to support evolving trade flows and play a meaningful role in strengthening links between key markets and the world further advancing Riyadh's position as a leading international logistics hub under Vision 2030.

Air Canada Cargo's Long-Term Vision Reflects Confidence in the Future of Global Air Freight

At a time when supply chains continue to adapt to geopolitical uncertainty, shifting trade flows and evolving sustainability expectations, Air Canada Cargo is making a decisive statement about the future of air freight. Rather than focusing on short-term market cycles, the carrier is investing in the fundamentals that define long-term competitiveness: network reach, fleet capability and operational resilience.

With access to more than 450 destinations across over 50 countries, Air Canada Cargo benefits from a powerful combination of dedicated freighter operations and extensive passenger belly-hold capacity. This integrated model provides the flexibility and scale increasingly demanded by shippers navigating complex global trade environments.

Central to the carrier's strategy is a significant fleet renewal programme that will see more than 78 new aircraft enter service between 2026 and 2030. The introduction of Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners and Airbus A350-1000 aircraft is expected to strengthen long-haul cargo capacity while delivering greater fuel efficiency and lower emissions intensity—factors that are becoming increasingly important as the industry balances growth ambitions with sustainability commitments.

Equally noteworthy is Air Canada Cargo's emphasis on network reliability. Through strategic counter-seasonal deployment of its freighter fleet, the airline is ensuring year-round connectivity across key trade corridors, supporting critical sectors such as pharmaceuticals, perishables and advanced manufacturing where consistency and speed remain paramount.

Infrastructure investment is another pillar of this long-term vision. Expanded cargo facilities and enhanced handling capabilities, particularly at Toronto Pearson, are positioning the carrier to accommodate growing volumes while meeting the increasingly sophisticated requirements of temperature-sensitive and high-value shipments.

Taken together, these initiatives reflect more than a fleet expansion or network enhancement; they signal a deliberate commitment to strengthening Canada's role in global commerce. In an industry where resilience, scale and reliability are becoming the ultimate differentiators, Air Canada Cargo's strategic investments offer a clear indication of how leading carriers are preparing for the next phase of global air cargo growth.

New network model targets independent forwarders as AERO launches AI-driven global platform for air cargo partnerships

As geopolitical volatility, shifting trade corridors and tightening carrier capacity continue to reshape international air freight, a new specialist network is aiming to redefine how independent freight forwarders build global partnerships.

AERO Logistics Network has officially launched as what it describes as the air cargo industry's first **general-access, non-exclusive global network built exclusively for air freight forwarders and logistics solution providers**, combining AI-powered compliance verification, active trade-lane matchmaking and collective purchasing power under a single digital ecosystem.

The launch comes at a time when forwarders are increasingly seeking market-specific operational partners rather than traditional directory-based networking models, particularly as supply chains become more fragmented and regionalised.

According to AERO, its platform has been designed to address a long-standing challenge in international forwarding: identifying reliable overseas partners with verified financial standing, operational capability and specialist air cargo expertise—without the territorial restrictions often associated with traditional closed logistics networks.

Moving beyond contact directories

At the heart of AERO's proposition is a departure from passive membership models.

Rather than simply providing members with access to a global contact database, the network uses a proprietary algorithm to actively match companies based on trade lanes, shipment profiles, operational capabilities and strategic growth objectives.

Once compatibility is identified, AERO facilitates direct introductions and partnership development, with the objective of converting relationships into active cargo flows.

"We're not providing a contact directory," said **Leo Barbaroussis**, Network Director of AERO Logistics Network. "We're actively connecting vetted forwarders who can move cargo together. AERO is the first airfreight network combining scale, trust and commercial value."

AI-powered verification raises entry standards

A key differentiator for the new platform is its use of third-party compliance screening supported by artificial intelligence.

According to AERO, every prospective member undergoes operational, reputational and financial due diligence before admission, with AI-supported verification helping validate business credentials, compliance history and trading capability.

This process is designed to mitigate the risk of unreliable overseas partnerships—an increasingly important consideration as smaller and mid-sized forwarders expand into new markets.

AERO says the model combines the quality-control standards traditionally associated with invitation-only logistics networks, while maintaining open membership access for qualified operators.

Collective buying power for independent operators

Beyond networking, AERO is positioning itself as a commercial platform.

Members gain access to carrier volume incentive programmes, preferred rate agreements and capacity procurement opportunities that would typically be unavailable to independent or regionally focused freight forwarders operating outside multinational buying groups.

This collective purchasing model is expected to become increasingly relevant as capacity remains volatile across key transpacific, Asia-Europe and intra-regional trade lanes.

According to the network, members will also gain access to payment protection programmes, digital collaboration tools and market intelligence services integrated through the AERO member portal.

Founding member phase limited to 50 companies

AERO is currently operating in a founding member phase, with membership initially capped at **50 companies** before broader global admission begins.

Founding members will receive early platform access, locked-in pricing, advisory representation in network policy development and permanent recognition as inaugural participants.

The strategy mirrors early-stage scaling models increasingly seen across specialist logistics ecosystems, where initial member engagement is used to shape governance and platform development before wider expansion.

Mallorca conference to mark first global gathering

The network has also announced its inaugural annual conference, scheduled for **12 October 2026** at **Castillo Hotel Son Vida**, a Marriott property in Mallorca, Spain.

The event is expected to bring together founding members, strategic partners and airline stakeholders to establish trade partnerships, discuss market developments and define network priorities for 2027.

Digital ecosystem expands beyond networking

Alongside its physical network strategy, AERO is building a broader digital infrastructure designed to support real-time air freight collaboration.

Among the next planned developments is a **digital rate exchange portal**, enabling live airfreight pricing, quotation and booking interfaces for exporters, importers and logistics providers.

The company is also developing digital learning modules and a private young professionals' community aimed at talent development and succession planning within the freight forwarding sector.

Industry observers note that as digitalisation accelerates across forwarding, platforms capable of combining trust, compliance, data visibility and commercial collaboration may increasingly shape how independent operators compete against global integrators.

For AERO, the ambition is clear: transform networking from a relationship exercise into a measurable business engine for air cargo specialists.

Blue City Aviation Retains ISAGO Accreditation, Reinforcing Midlands Safety Leadership

Blue City Aviation has renewed its IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) certification, securing full accreditation across its MHQ and STN operations and reaffirming its commitment to internationally recognised standards in ground handling safety, operational governance and service quality.

The renewal further strengthens the company's standing within the UK aviation sector, maintaining its distinction as the only ground handling provider at Birmingham Airport—and across the Midlands region—to hold the globally recognised ISAGO accreditation. The achievement highlights Blue City Aviation's continued focus on regulatory compliance, operational excellence and risk management in an increasingly demanding aviation environment.

Widely regarded as the industry benchmark for ground handling oversight, ISAGO certification provides airlines with independent assurance that service providers meet rigorous international standards covering safety, quality control and operational procedures. For Blue City Aviation, retaining the accreditation underscores sustained investment in safety culture, workforce training and performance consistency across its operations.

The company said the successful recertification reflects the dedication of its teams and reinforces confidence among airline partners seeking reliable and compliant ground handling support. As carriers place greater emphasis on operational resilience and service quality, recognised safety accreditations such as ISAGO continue to play an increasingly important role in supplier selection and partnership decisions.

By maintaining dual accreditation at MHQ and STN, Blue City Aviation not only preserves a key competitive advantage within the Midlands market but also reinforces its reputation as a trusted provider committed to delivering safe, efficient and high-quality ground handling services in line with global aviation best practices.

LogiPharma 2026 Highlights Shift from Hype to Execution as Life Sciences Supply Chains Focus on AI Reality, Resilience and Visibility

The 2026 edition of LogiPharma 2026 concluded in Vienna with record engagement, drawing more than 2,300 pharmaceutical, biotech, and life sciences supply chain professionals from across the globe. Hosted at the Austria Center Vienna, the event marked a significant evolution in the industry dialogue, shifting from conceptual transformation narratives to practical execution, operational resilience, and measurable value creation.

The relocation to Vienna and the introduction of refreshed session formats were widely viewed as successful, with packed agendas, expanded exhibitor participation, and a notable increase in interactive engagement across all conference tracks. Organisers also pointed to a strengthened pipeline of post-event collaborations and solution deployments, reflecting sustained momentum in the sector.

AI Conversation Matures as Industry Focuses on Practical Value

A defining theme of LogiPharma 2026 was the continued prominence of artificial intelligence in supply chain discourse, albeit with a marked shift in tone.

According to Event Director Ben Sharples, discussions around AI have matured significantly, moving away from speculative expectations toward grounded assessments of current capability and operational limitations.

"AI dominated the conversation again this year, but the tone was far more grounded," Sharples said. "There's a growing realism about what the technology can deliver right now, as well as where its limitations still lie."

Survey insights shared during the event underscored this cautious perspective. Half of respondents indicated that AI tools had provided no meaningful support during recent Middle East disruptions, highlighting a persistent gap between technological ambition and operational impact in crisis conditions.

End-to-End Visibility Emerges as Critical Priority

One of the most consistent takeaways from the conference was the growing emphasis on true end-to-end supply chain visibility as a foundational requirement for resilience.

Industry participants repeatedly stressed that fragmented data systems and limited real-time tracking capabilities remain major barriers to effective disruption management, particularly in global pharmaceutical distribution networks.

While AI-enabled solutions continue to gain traction, speakers emphasised that poor data quality remains a core structural issue undermining digital transformation efforts across the sector.

Organisational Alignment and Cultural Barriers in Focus

Another key theme was the increasing convergence between supply chain and commercial functions within life sciences organisations.

Companies are placing greater emphasis on aligning operational decisions with broader business objectives, including market expansion, revenue growth, and patient access outcomes.

However, discussions also highlighted that technological investment alone is insufficient without corresponding cultural and organisational change.

Sharples noted that human factors remain decisive in determining success or failure in digital transformation programmes.

"Even the best technology won't deliver if it's in the wrong hands," he said. "Digital transformation is still, at its core, a people and change challenge."

AI Control Towers Positioned as Next Operational Layer

Looking ahead, AI-enabled control towers emerged as a key area of focus, increasingly viewed as the central coordination layer for modern pharmaceutical supply chains.

These systems are evolving beyond traditional monitoring functions to provide predictive insights, scenario modelling, and proactive disruption management capabilities.

Industry stakeholders described this shift as a move from reactive recovery models toward anticipatory supply chain orchestration, particularly in temperature-sensitive and high-value pharmaceutical logistics.

Exhibitor Innovation Reflects Practical Supply Chain Priorities

The expanded exhibition zone at LogiPharma 2026 showcased a strong pipeline of applied technologies focused on resilience, sustainability, and cold chain integrity.

Jake Brown, Commercial Lead at LogiPharma, highlighted the importance of interactive engagement formats and experiential demonstrations in enhancing industry collaboration.

"Exhibitors used LogiPharma as

The relocation to Vienna and the introduction of refreshed session formats were widely viewed as successful, with packed agendas, expanded exhibitor participation, and a notable increase in interactive engagement across all conference tracks.

a platform to launch and showcase next-generation technologies aimed at improving resilience, reducing risk, balancing cost and sustainability, and strengthening cold chain integrity," Brown said.

Among key announcements, supply chain visibility specialist TransVoyant introduced its new "Risk in Motion" platform, designed to aggregate multi-source data inputs and identify disruption risks in real time, enabling proactive intervention for high-value shipments.

In cold chain innovation, Peli BioThermal unveiled a new SmartCap solution for DV10 dewars, aimed at improving monitoring and reliability for advanced therapies such as cell and gene treatments.

Sustainable packaging developer Woolcool introduced its LifeGUARDIAN® system, a fully passive thermal box capable of maintaining temperature stability for up to 120 hours using a multi-layer insulation design that eliminates the need for active cooling systems.

Start-up Innovation and Sustainability in Focus

Emerging technology companies also featured prominently, with Tapp recognised as Start Up Village Champion for its approach to simplifying temperature-controlled shipment management.

The company's solution focuses on reducing electronic waste while enabling instant shipment data access without additional hardware requirements, reflecting broader industry interest in sustainable, low-friction digital tools.

Collaboration and Cultural Exchange Reinforce Industry Connectivity

Beyond technology showcases, the event emphasised the importance of partnership, trust, and cultural exchange in global supply chain operations.

One notable moment included a traditional Kagami Biraki sake barrel ceremony hosted by Yusen Logistics, symbolising collaboration and shared intent across international partners.

High Engagement Reflects Industry Urgency

Delegates submitted 321 questions through the event application platform, reflecting strong participation levels and a clear appetite for direct, practical dialogue.

Across both Supply Chain and Logistics tracks, sessions incorporated live polling, peer-to-peer discussions, and interactive debate formats, reinforcing the event's shift toward applied learning and real-world problem-solving.

Outlook: From Digital Ambition to Operational Reality

The overall narrative emerging from LogiPharma 2026 points to a sector transitioning from technology-led ambition to execution-driven maturity.

While digital transformation remains central to strategic planning, the emphasis is increasingly on data quality, organisational alignment, and operational resilience rather than standalone technological deployment.

As pharmaceutical supply chains continue to face geopolitical uncertainty, regulatory complexity, and rising service expectations, the focus is expected to remain on building systems that are not only intelligent, but also robust, transparent, and operationally dependable.

LogiPharma 2026: tempmate and PAXAFE Forge AI-Driven Alliance to Advance Predictive Cold Chain Intelligence in Pharmaceutical Logistics

The push toward predictive, data-driven pharmaceutical logistics took a significant step forward at LogiPharma 2026, where German cold chain monitoring specialist tempmate GmbH and US-based logistics intelligence platform PAXAFE announced a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening end-to-end pharmaceutical supply chain visibility and resilience.

Unveiled on the sidelines of the event at the Austria Center Vienna, the collaboration brings together decades of cold chain monitoring expertise with advanced artificial intelligence capabilities designed to shift pharmaceutical logistics from reactive control models to predictive, risk-aware orchestration.

Bridging Cold Chain Monitoring and AI Decision Intelligence

The partnership is centred on integrating real-time environmental monitoring data with AI-driven logistics analytics to improve shipment integrity across global pharmaceutical supply chains.

By combining tempmate's established monitoring infrastructure with PAXAFE's predictive modelling and orchestration tools, the collaboration aims to eliminate operational blind spots, reduce temperature excursion risks, and enhance decision-making across complex international transport lanes.

The initiative reflects a broader industry shift toward unified digital ecosystems capable of linking physical shipment conditions with real-time predictive insights.

Shared Philosophy of Customer-Centric Innovation

Speaking during a VIP networking event held alongside the conference, PAXAFE Chief Growth Officer Bryan Schultz highlighted the alignment between both organisations' operational philosophies.

He emphasised that despite differing organisational maturity levels, both companies share a focus on sustainable growth and customer-centric solution development rather than rapid, cost-driven expansion.

tempmate Chief Operating Officer Rouven Dochtermann reinforced this alignment, noting that the partnership was driven by a shared ambition to eliminate fragmented data environments across pharmaceutical logistics networks.

The objective, he explained, is to build a seamless digital framework that enables continuous visibility from shipment origin to final delivery, reducing reliance on siloed systems that limit operational responsiveness.

Strengthening Competitive Position Through Collaboration

From a market positioning perspective, tempmate highlighted the strategic importance of alliances in an increasingly consolidated and technology-driven sector.

Head of Customer Solutions Daniel Fiedrich noted that mid-sized technology providers face strong competition from large global logistics and data infrastructure players, making collaborative ecosystems essential for sustained innovation.

tempmate, which processes over one million monitored shipments annually across 90 countries and serves more than 1,500 customers, continues to reinvest significantly in research and development to maintain competitiveness in the pharmaceutical cold chain monitoring segment.

The company currently reports that 65% of its business is concentrated in pharmaceutical logistics, reflecting the growing regulatory and commercial importance of temperature-controlled supply chain integrity.

Moving Beyond Compliance Toward Predictive Risk Prevention

At LogiPharma, tempmate showcased its chaingr® ecosystem, a scalable monitoring platform designed to deliver real-time visibility, proactive alerts, and predictive risk intelligence across temperature-sensitive shipments.

The system is designed not only to ensure regulatory compliance but also to anticipate potential environmental deviations before they occur, addressing a long-standing industry challenge in cold chain logistics.

Customer Success Manager Julien Mutschler emphasised that pharmaceutical logistics increasingly requires verifiable proof of condition integrity across the entire transport lifecycle, driven by stringent regulatory expectations.

He also pointed to growing industry interest in sustainable monitoring solutions, including reusable or recyclable data loggers and improved reverse logistics frameworks to reduce electronic waste and environmental impact.

From Reactive Response to Predictive Intervention

A key theme emerging from the partnership is the transition from reactive incident management to predictive intervention in pharmaceutical logistics operations.

Both companies cited real-world scenarios where predictive analytics could have prevented temperature excursions, including cases where inadequate packaging and exposure during ground handling resulted in product degradation.

According to tempmate Head of Customer Success Daniel Fiedrich, the industry is still largely reactive in managing supply chain risks, but is rapidly moving toward predictive decision-making models that can recommend preventive actions before shipments are compromised.

PAXAFE Head of Customer Success Chandler Williams added that by combining historical data with real-time monitoring inputs, AI systems can identify high-risk lanes, airports, and operational patterns associated with recurring disruptions.

This capability enables logistics operators to anticipate temperature deviations and adjust routing, packaging, or handling protocols proactively.

AI Integration and Operational Transformation

The partnership also highlights the growing role of artificial intelligence in redefining operational workflows within pharmaceutical logistics.

Rather than replacing human oversight, AI is increasingly positioned as a decision-support layer that enables supply chain professionals to focus on higher-value operational management rather than manual monitoring tasks.

tempmate leadership noted that AI-enabled systems could significantly reduce administrative burden, streamline reporting processes, and support automated anomaly detection across global logistics networks.

The long-term vision articulated by both companies points toward semi-autonomous supply chain control systems, where human operators supervise AI-driven orchestration platforms rather than manually managing individual shipment events.

Geopolitical Risk Reinforces Need for Predictive Supply Chains

The partnership also comes against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical volatility, with ongoing disruptions in the Middle East underscoring vulnerabilities in global logistics networks.

tempmate emphasised that predictive analytics can play a critical role in assessing the impact of geopolitical events such as airspace closures, strikes, or conflict-related rerouting on pharmaceutical shipment integrity and timing.

By integrating external risk intelligence with shipment-level monitoring data, the system aims to enhance reliability, improve on-time performance, and safeguard temperature-sensitive medical products in transit.

Knowledge Sharing and Ecosystem Collaboration

Beyond technology integration, both organisations stressed the importance of data collaboration and knowledge sharing across the logistics ecosystem.

The partnership is designed to support a more open data environment where aggregated insights can improve predictive accuracy and benefit wider supply chain stakeholders.

This approach reflects a broader industry movement toward interconnected logistics intelligence networks capable of improving resilience across global pharmaceutical distribution systems.

Emirates cargo veteran

Nabil Sultan appointed CEO of dnata in major leadership transition

The Emirates Group has named **Nabil Sultan** as the next Chief Executive Officer of **dnata**, effective **15 June 2026**, marking one of the most significant leadership transitions within the global aviation services sector this year.

Sultan, one of the most experienced cargo and commercial leaders within the Emirates ecosystem, succeeds **Steve Allen**, who has led dnata since March 2021 through a period of post-pandemic recovery, operational expansion and record financial performance.

The appointment signals continuity within the Emirates Group's long-established internal leadership pipeline while reinforcing dnata's strategic focus on cargo, ground handling, digital transformation and international expansion at a time of heightened volatility across global aviation and supply chains.

From cargo leadership to group-wide responsibility

Sultan brings more than three decades of experience within the **Emirates** organisation.

Most recently, he served as Executive Vice President for Passenger Sales and Country Management at Emirates, overseeing the airline's global commercial operations across key international markets.

Before moving into passenger commercial leadership, Sultan spent more than a decade leading **Emirates SkyCargo** as Divisional Senior Vice President, where he played a central role in expanding the carrier's global freight footprint, strengthening specialised product offerings and positioning SkyCargo among the world's leading international air freight operators.

Under his cargo leadership, Emirates SkyCargo expanded freighter operations, deepened pharmaceutical and perishables capabilities, accelerated digital booking initiatives and strengthened its strategic role in global supply chains.

According to Emirates Group sources, Sultan will formally assume the CEO role on **15 June 2026**.

Leadership transition at a pivotal moment

Sultan takes over dnata at a critical stage for the aviation services giant.

The company—wholly owned by Emirates Group—operates cargo handling, ground services, catering and travel businesses across more than 30 countries, serving hundreds of airline customers and millions of passengers annually.

The transition follows a strong financial year for dnata.

According to the Emirates Group's latest annual report for the financial year ending **31 March 2026**, dnata delivered **record profit before tax of AED 1.6 billion (US$437 million)**, with revenues rising **12 percent to AED 23.6 billion (US$6.4 billion)**.

Revenue from airport operations, including cargo and ground handling, increased to **AED 11.2 billion (US$3.1 billion)**, while dnata handled **3.2 million tonnes of cargo globally** during the reporting period.

Steve Allen exits after transformation phase

Outgoing CEO Steve Allen leaves after more than 15 years with the Emirates Group.

Appointed dnata CEO in March 2021, Allen guided the business through one of the most challenging operating environments in aviation history, overseeing recovery from pandemic disruption while expanding dnata's international footprint across airport operations, cargo handling, travel services and hospitality.

Prior to becoming CEO, Allen led dnata's airport operations and cargo services in the UAE from 2016 and later took responsibility for dnata's global travel businesses in 2020, driving digital transformation across multiple business units.

Before joining Emirates Group in 2009, Allen spent 16 years with **British Airways** in operational, financial and commercial leadership roles.

Cargo expertise to shape dnata's next growth chapter

Sultan's appointment is particularly notable for the cargo sector.

Few senior airline executives have as extensive a background in both air freight and global commercial strategy. Between 1995 and 2008, Sultan held senior leadership roles across the United Kingdom, India, West Asia, the Gulf, Europe and the CIS before being promoted in 2009 to Divisional Senior Vice President for Revenue Optimisation and Distribution at Emirates.

His appointment comes as dnata continues investing heavily in cargo infrastructure, digital logistics platforms, automation and strategic acquisitions across key international markets.

Industry observers expect Sultan's cargo-first perspective to support dnata's continued expansion in specialist handling, e-commerce logistics, pharmaceutical supply chains and integrated ground operations as airlines increasingly seek resilient global service partners.

At the same time, ongoing geopolitical tensions affecting Middle East airspace, volatile supply chains and shifting trade patterns are placing new demands on aviation service providers—making leadership continuity and operational agility increasingly critical.

With Sultan now preparing to take the helm, dnata enters its next phase from a position of financial strength, operational scale and strategic relevance across the global aviation ecosystem.

Emirates Group posts record AED 24.4 billion profit as cargo, aviation services and network expansion power historic 2025-26 performance

AR-2025-26-emirates-a380
Emirates delivers its best-ever financial results to become the world's most profitable airline. For 2025-26, Emirates hit a new record profit before tax of AED 22.8 billion (US$ 6.2 billion), and record revenue, thanks to strong demand across customer segments and markets during the year.

The **Emirates Group** has delivered the strongest financial performance in its history, reporting record profit, revenue and cash reserves for the financial year ended **31 March 2026**, reinforcing Dubai's position at the centre of global aviation, trade and logistics despite geopolitical disruption in the final weeks of the reporting period.

In its newly released **2025-26 Annual Report**, the Dubai-based aviation and logistics conglomerate announced **record profit before tax of AED 24.4 billion (US$6.6 billion)**, up **7 percent** year-on-year, on **record revenue of AED 150.5 billion (US$41.0 billion)**, an increase of **3 percent** over the previous financial year.

The Group also closed the year with its highest-ever cash balance of **AED 59.6 billion (US$16.2 billion)**, up **12 percent**, while EBITDA reached **AED 41.1 billion (US$11.2 billion)**, underlining the Group's operational resilience and strong cash-generating capability.

After accounting for the UAE's adoption of **Pillar Two global minimum tax rules**, which increased the applicable corporate tax rate from 9 percent to 15 percent, Emirates Group reported **net profit after tax of AED 21.0 billion (US$5.7 billion)**, up **3 percent** year-on-year. The Group also declared a dividend of **AED 3.5 billion (US$1.0 billion)**to its owner, the **Investment Corporation of Dubai**. (theemiratesgroup.com)

Emirates remains the world's most profitable airline

At the core of the Group's performance was **Emirates**, which retained its position as the world's most profitable airline during the 2025-26 reporting period.

The airline reported **profit before tax of AED 22.8 billion (US$6.2 billion)**, up **7 percent**, delivering an industry-leading **17.4 percent profit margin**.

Revenue rose to **AED 130.9 billion (US$35.7 billion)**, up **2 percent**, while cash reserves reached a record **AED 54.9 billion (US$15.0 billion)**.

Emirates carried **53.2 million passengers** during the year, while total passenger and cargo capacity grew to **60.6 billion Available Tonne Kilometres (ATKMs)**.

By year-end, Emirates' global network covered **152 destinations in 80 countries**, supported by **32 codeshare partners**and **117 interline agreements**, providing connectivity to over **1,700 cities worldwide**.

The airline also expanded its fleet with the delivery of **15 Airbus A350 aircraft**, bringing its total fleet to **277 aircraft**, while maintaining one of the youngest long-haul fleets globally with an average age of **10.8 years**.

At the **Dubai Airshow 2025**, Emirates committed to additional fleet investments valued at **US$41.4 billion**, including **65 Boeing 777-9 aircraft** and **eight additional Airbus A350-900s**, bringing its total order

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates airline and Group, announces The Emirates Group's record financial results for 2025-26. Despite a challenging 12th month of its financial year, the Group achieves new record profit, revenue, and cash balance levels at year end. Emirates remains the world's most profitable airline in the 2025-26 reporting cycle.

book to **367 aircraft**scheduled for delivery through 2038. (emirates.com)

Emirates SkyCargo delivers strong freight growth

Cargo remained a major contributor to Emirates' financial performance.

Emirates SkyCargo transported **2.4 million tonnes of cargo** during the financial year, representing **3 percent growth**year-on-year.

Revenue from cargo operations reached **AED 16.2 billion (US$4.4 billion)**, accounting for **12 percent of Emirates' total airline revenue**, despite market pressure on freight yields caused by global tariff volatility and e-commerce pricing pressure.

The delivery of **five new Boeing 777 freighters** during the year increased SkyCargo's dedicated freighter capacity by **13 percent**.

By the end of March, SkyCargo's freighter fleet stood at **13 Boeing 777Fs**, with an additional **eight freighters on order**.

The division also expanded its freighter network to **44 destinations**, adding **Bangkok, Budapest, Liège and Tokyo Narita**, while increasing frequencies across key trade lanes.

SkyCargo also launched several new specialist logistics products during the year, including **Emirates Courier Express**, a cross-border door-to-door delivery solution, and a new **Aerospace and Engineering logistics suite**targeting aviation, defence, engineering and space industry customers.

dnata posts record results as cargo volumes top 3.2 million tonnes

Ground handling and aviation services provider **dnata**, a core part of the Emirates Group ecosystem, also delivered record results.

dnata reported **profit before tax of AED 1.6 billion (US$437 million)**, up **2 percent**, on **record revenue of AED 23.6 billion (US$6.4 billion)**, representing **12 percent growth**.

Cash reserves rose sharply by **28 percent** to **AED 4.7 billion (US$1.3 billion)**.

Revenue from **airport operations**, including cargo and ground handling, increased to **AED 11.2 billion (US$3.1 billion)**.

Globally, dnata handled **888,793 aircraft turns**, up **12 percent**, while cargo volumes increased **2 percent to 3.2 million tonnes**.

Significant investments during the year included a **€70 million fully automated cargo facility in Amsterdam** with annual handling capacity of **600,000 tonnes**, new catering facilities in Australia, expanded electric and hybrid ground support equipment, and the acquisition of **Wymap Group**, a specialist air cargo trucking provider in Australia and New Zealand.

dnata also announced plans to launch ground handling and cargo operations in **Azerbaijan** when **Alat International Airport** opens in 2027. (dnata.com)

Navigating geopolitical disruption

Despite the record performance, the Group faced significant operational disruption in the final month of the financial year.

According to **His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum**, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates airline and Group, military activity across the Gulf region beginning on **28 February** significantly disrupted commercial air traffic across Middle Eastern airspace.

However, the Group's diversified business model, strong cash reserves, established crisis-response systems and Dubai's integrated aviation infrastructure enabled operations to continue, with cargo services prioritised to support the movement of essential goods.

"Cargo operations have ramped up to support the movement of essential goods into and through the UAE," Sheikh Ahmed said in the Group's annual report. (theemiratesgroup.com)

Investing for the next growth cycle

During 2025-26, Emirates Group invested **AED 17.9 billion (US$4.9 billion)** in aircraft, infrastructure, facilities, digital technology and operational capability.

Its global workforce expanded **8 percent** to **130,919 employees**, while the Group's UAE national workforce exceeded **4,000 employees** for the first time.

Sustainability remained a strategic priority, with investments in sustainable aviation fuel research, electric ground support equipment, circular economy initiatives and biodiversity projects across multiple markets.

With geopolitical uncertainty still affecting global supply chains, Emirates Group enters the 2026-27 financial year from a position of exceptional financial strength, operational scale and strategic relevance.

For the global air cargo and aviation sectors, the Group's latest performance reinforces a broader industry reality: scale, network resilience, digital capability and cargo diversification are increasingly defining long-term competitive advantage.

Menzies Aviation hits 25% electric ground support equipment target

Progress supported by $200m investment in fleet modernization

Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, has achieved its global target of 25% electric Ground Support Equipment (GSE), underpinned by a USD$200 million investment in modernising its vehicle fleet.

Menzies Aviation is committed to reducing emissions across its operations to support its goal of becoming net-zero by 2045.

It added more than 620 electric GSE assets in 2025 increasing the proportion of electric GSE globally from 22% in 2024 to 25% by year end. Today, 11 locations operate fleets with more than 70% electric GSE, while more than 20 locations exceed 50%, highlighting the scale of change across Menzies' global network.

Europe continues to lead the transition, with more than half of all GSE now electric across the region, supported by strong airport charging infrastructure and close collaboration with airline partners. At Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP) in Italy, where we operate in partnership with AGS Handling, more than 80% of motorised GSE is now electric, combined with a permanent switch to electric Pre-Conditioned Air Units, enabling fully electric aircraft turns.

In Manchester, UK, two additional hybrid deicing rigs were deployed, increasing the station's electric GSE to 40%. Fully electric fuel hydrant dispensers were also introduced at London Gatwick Airport (LGW) and Copenhagen Airport (CPH), supporting quieter operations, improved air quality and reduced Scope 1 emissions.

In 2025, Menzies operations in Oceania & South East Asia increased to 30% electric. In Cairns, Australia, Menzies began electric ground power unit (GPU) trials.

Where full electrification is not yet viable, Menzies continues to expand the use of lower emission alternatives, such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). In 2025, the business used two million litres of HVO, a 50% year-on-year increase on 2024, with expanded use at London's Heathrow Airport (LHR) and Gatwick Airport (LGW). HVO has fully replaced diesel in several locations, including San Diego, Amsterdam, Los Angeles and Stockholm Arlanda, with additional use across the UK, the Nordics and Spain.

Jonathan Hankin, Head of ESG, Menzies Aviation, said: *"2025 was a year of real progress towards out net-zero target. Achieving our ambitious goal of 25% electric GSE by 2025 across our fleet and accelerating our adoption of loweremissions fuels and renewable energy demonstrates our commitment to reducing emissions, even as our global network continues to grow. We are now focused on building on this momentum, with further increases in electric GSE already underway across our network."*

Sustainability at scale:

Hactl deepens ESG leadership through innovation, operational excellence and people-first transformation

As the global air cargo industry accelerates its transition toward lower-carbon, digitally connected and socially responsible operations, **Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (Hactl)** is positioning sustainability not as a corporate obligation, but as a core operating philosophy. Marking its 50th anniversary, the Hong Kong-based cargo handling specialist has released its Sustainability Report 2025, presenting a detailed account of how environmental stewardship, workforce wellbeing, digital innovation and governance are being integrated into every layer of its business model.

For an organisation handling a substantial share of cargo moving through one of the world's busiest international freight gateways, the report signals a broader strategic evolution: sustainability is now directly linked to resilience, competitiveness and long-term value creation.

Building sustainable growth on nearly five decades of cargo expertise

Established in 1976 at Hong Kong's former Kai Tak Airport, Hactl has grown into one of the world's most sophisticated independent air cargo handlers. Today, the company serves more than 100 airlines and over 1,000 freight forwarders, logistics providers and supply chain partners from **SuperTerminal 1** at **Hong Kong International Airport**.

Opened in 1998 with an investment of approximately USD1 billion, SuperTerminal 1 remains one of the largest and most technologically advanced multi-level cargo terminals globally, offering annual handling capacity of up to 3.5 million tonnes.

The facility includes storage capacity for 3,500 Unit Load Devices (ULDs), a loose cargo storage system accommodating 10,000 stillages, more than 400 pallet build-up and breakdown stations, specialised cargo zones and over 300 covered truck docks—supporting the efficient handling of complex cargo flows across global trade lanes.

Hactl manages virtually every cargo category, including pharmaceuticals, perishables, dangerous goods, lithium batteries, live animals, high-value shipments, oversized cargo and aero engines, reinforcing its strategic role in global supply chain continuity.

Sustainability embedded into operational strategy

According to the 2025 report, Hactl's sustainability strategy is no longer structured as a standalone ESG programme, but embedded directly into operational planning, investment decisions and workforce development.

The company states its ambition is to become "the most sustainable air cargo handling operation in the world," supported by policies focused on climate resilience, circular economy practices, social inclusion, ethical governance and continuous performance measurement.

Workforce safety, inclusion and talent development

People remain at the centre of Hactl's sustainability agenda.

The company reported a **69 percent reduction in workplace injuries since 2018**, alongside **39,498 training hours**delivered during the latest reporting period—reflecting sustained investment in operational competence, safety culture and leadership development.

In an industry facing ongoing skills shortages, Hactl also highlighted strong workforce retention, with 40 percent of employees having served more than ten years. Gender diversity continues to improve, with women now holding **45 percent of senior management positions**.

To support frontline teams operating in demanding ramp and warehouse environments, Hactl introduced cooling vests and expanded employee wellbeing initiatives, while unveiling **Hactl Think Park**, a redesigned learning and innovation hub created around sustainable workplace design principles.

Climate action aligned with science-based targets

On the environmental front, Hactl continues to align its decarbonisation roadmap with internationally recognised science-based targets.

The company has committed to reducing absolute Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by **50.4 percent by 2030**, using 2018 as its baseline, while continuing to evaluate longer-term pathways toward net-zero operations.

During 2025, Hactl expanded the deployment of renewable diesel across selected ground support equipment as part of a phased transition toward lower-carbon ramp operations.

Its sustainability roadmap also prioritises electrification of ground assets, energy-efficient infrastructure upgrades, renewable energy integration, supplier engagement and broader circular economy initiatives.

Smart cargo terminal driving operational efficiency

Digitalisation remains a central pillar of Hactl's sustainability transformation.

At the core of its operational ecosystem is **COSAC-Plus**, the company's proprietary cargo management platform, which supports paperless workflows, cargo visibility, process automation and real-time operational coordination.

The platform is certified to ISO/IEC 27001:2022, ensuring cybersecurity and data resilience as cargo processes become increasingly digitised.

In partnership with **HKT**, Hactl has also deployed Hong Kong's first private 5G-enabled air cargo terminal—an infrastructure upgrade designed to support next-generation automation across SuperTerminal 1.

The deployment powers autonomous electric tractors, AI-enabled security robots, smart cargo locating systems and real-time machine-to-machine communications, enabling faster decision-making, reduced energy waste and improved operational resilience.

According to Hactl, the private 5G network provides ultra-low latency connectivity while allowing greater control over bandwidth, cybersecurity and future scalability.

Specialist cargo excellence and global compliance

Hactl continues to maintain one of the most comprehensive compliance portfolios in the cargo handling sector.

The company was the first organisation globally accredited under the IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO), the first in Hong Kong to secure WHO Good Distribution Practices certification, and the first cargo handling operator worldwide to achieve all four IATA CEIV certifications—covering Fresh, Pharma, Lithium Batteries and Live Animals.

These credentials support Hactl's growing role in high-value, high-risk and

temperature-sensitive supply chains, particularly in healthcare, electronics and e-commerce sectors.

Community engagement and circular economy initiatives

Beyond terminal operations, Hactl's sustainability efforts increasingly extend into social impact and circular economy programmes.

Among the year's flagship initiatives were the tenth anniversary of its Green Week programme, a record-scale menstrual equity campaign supporting migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong, and continued expansion of its zero-waste uniform upcycling project aimed at reducing textile waste.

These programmes reflect a broader effort to engage employees, customers, supply chain partners and local communities in shared sustainability outcomes.

Looking ahead

As cargo volumes continue to grow and environmental expectations intensify across global aviation, Hactl's 2025 sustainability strategy reflects a clear message: operational excellence and sustainability are no longer separate ambitions.

For Hactl, the next phase of growth will be defined by how effectively technology, people and partnerships can deliver measurable environmental performance while maintaining the speed, reliability and security demanded by global supply chains.

Swissport drives pharma cold chain growth at EuroAirport Basel

Swissport has reached a significant operational milestone at EuroAirport Basel–Mulhouse–Freiburg, handling 1,000 temperature-controlled containers (RKN-equivalent units) through its "cool+connect" facility. The milestone reflects strong growth in pharmaceutical volumes and reinforces Basel's role as a key European gateway for life science air cargo.

Since the launch of its "cool+connect" infrastructure in February 2025, Swissport has processed more than 1,000 temperature-controlled containers at EuroAirport Basel, with monthly volumes increasing to 200-250 (RKN equivalents units). This sustained growth reflects increasing demand for reliable, airport-based cold chain solutions, positioning Swissport at the heart of global pharmaceutical supply chains connecting Europe with key markets in Asia and beyond. The milestone underscores Basel's growing importance as a European life science export hub and confirms Swissport's expanding role as a strategic gateway for temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical shipments, backed by a network of 24 certified pharma centres and 65 pharma-capable warehouses worldwide.

With its dedicated cool+connect infrastructure, and integrated digital monitoring systems, Swissport has significantly optimized the handling of +2 to +8°C shipments by consolidating consignments directly at the airport in order to be loaded into Active Cooltainer while maintaining 100% the cool chain. This eliminates off-airport trucking loops, reduces handling times by around 70% and materially lowers CO_2 emissions, while ensuring maximum shipment integrity.

"Reaching this milestone highlights the structural growth we are seeing in temperature-controlled cargo," says Andreas Behnke, Regional Head of Cargo, Switzerland, Italy and France. "Demand from global pharmaceutical manufacturers and healthcare logistics providers continues to increase, particularly for airport-based solutions that reduce complexity and transit time. Our unique state-of-the-art facility combines efficiency, scalability and sustainability in a way that meets the evolving requirements of modern pharmaceutical supply chains."

Strengthening Cold Chain Resilience With Enhanced Airside Protection

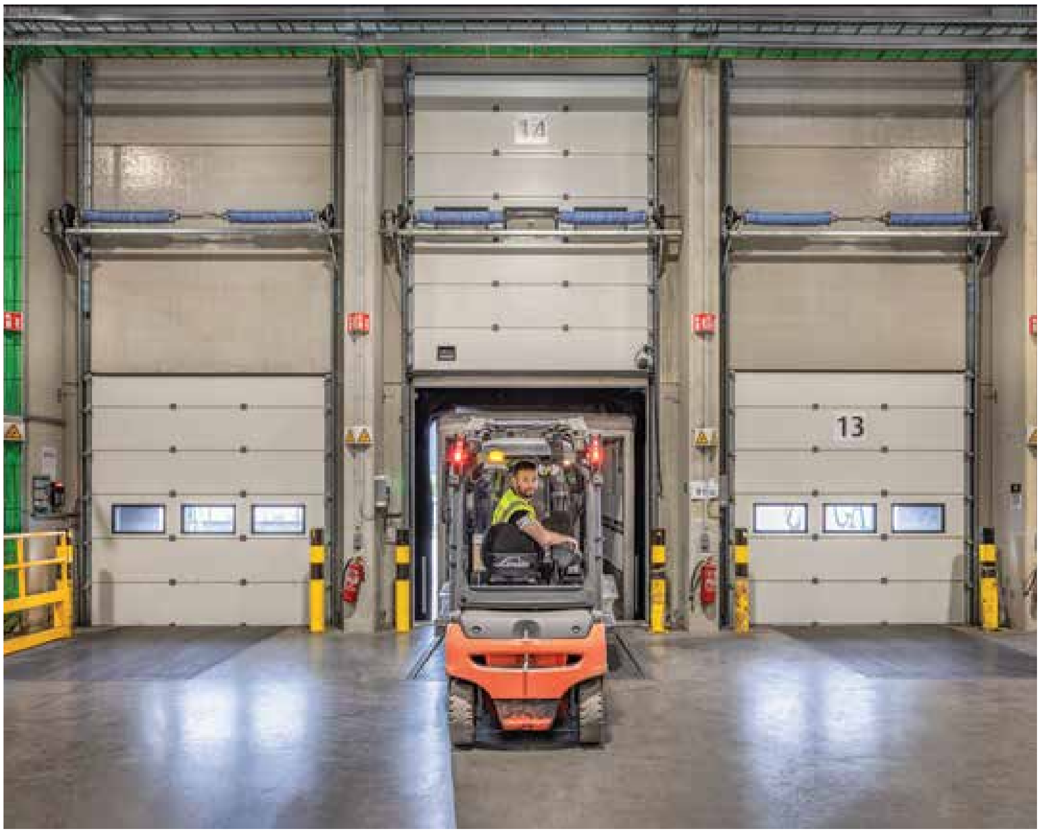
Building on the success of cool+connect, Swissport is further strengthening cold chain resilience at Cargo Basel with newly tested thermal covers for transport dollies. Designed for extreme heat and cold conditions, the reusable and washable covers maintain stable temperatures for up to three hours during airside transport. Specially adapted cargo dollies have been equipped with the system, ensuring seamless integration into daily operations without additional handling complexity.

This investment further mitigates weather-related risks and reinforces end-to-end temperature control for critical healthcare shipments, reflecting Swissport's ongoing commitment to innovation in cold chain logistics.

Kuehne+Nagel signs up for WFS' new E-commerce & Freight Forwarder Handling services in Frankfurt

Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a SATS company, has been awarded a contract by Kuehne+Nagel to provide freight forwarder handling services at Frankfurt Airport, Europe's biggest air cargo gateway.

The agreement follows WFS' investment in leases on two warehouses and two office buildings on a 24,000 m² site within the airport's Cargo City South, which commenced operations in December. The facilities – equipped with ULD handling systems and volume and dimension scanners used to expedite the processing of shipments – have the capacity to handle up to 100,000 tonnes of import and export freight annually for customers using WFS' specialist E-commerce and Freight Forwarder Handling (EFFH) services.



"Kuehne+Nagel is a key and highly valued partner of SATS and WFS and we are proud to be expanding our global partnership in Frankfurt, which has been made possible by the launch of our E-Commerce & Freight Forwarder Handling services in our new facilities at the airport," said Bert Selis, VP Business Development E commerce & Freight Forwarding Handling EMEAA. "Our EFFH services are central to the growth strategy of SATS/WFS and are designed to deliver clear operational and cost benefits to growing logistics providers, as Kuehne+Nagel has recognised with this new contract," he added.

"We are pleased to expand our partnership with WFS in Frankfurt. Frankfurt is an important gateway within the Kuehne+Nagel airfreight network. Together, we can speed up imports and exports by reducing clearance and processing times to optimise cargo flows for our customers," added Martin Schaefer, SVP Air Logistics Germany at Kuehne+Nagel.

On behalf of Kuehne+Nagel, in addition to handling import shipments, WFS manages the recording of weight and dimensions of export shipments as well as making goods secure and ready for carriage. Additional services include cargo labelling, HAWB consolidation into Master Airway Bill (MAWB), build-up of ULDs, and dedicated transport shuttles to ground handlers and airlines for departing flights. As well as in Frankfurt, WFS' network of EFFH service locations also includes Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Liege, London, Madrid, Stockholm, and 12 airports across France, including Paris CDG.

IATA Names Marianna Abplanalp as Head of Special Cargo to Drive Global Strategy

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has announced the appointment of Marianna Valentina Abplanalp as its new Head of Special Cargo, effective May 2026. Based in Geneva, Abplanalp will steer the association's strategic direction across specialised cargo segments, reinforcing IATA's focus on high-value, time-sensitive, and complex logistics verticals.

Her appointment comes at a time when global air cargo continues to diversify, with increasing demand for tailored logistics solutions across sectors such as semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, perishables, and dangerous goods. In her new role, Abplanalp is expected to leverage her extensive cross-functional experience to enhance industry standards, improve operational frameworks, and support the evolving needs of specialised cargo stakeholders worldwide.

Abplanalp joined IATA after more than a decade at Kuehne+Nagel, where she held a series of senior leadership roles from 2016 to 2026. Most recently, she served as Vice President, Global Air Logistics, Semicon and Cloud Product, overseeing complex supply chain solutions for high-tech industries. Her portfolio included the development and management of global air logistics products, with a particular focus on semiconductor supply chains and cloud infrastructure logistics—two sectors that have seen exponential growth and strategic importance in recent years.

During her tenure at Kuehne+Nagel, Abplanalp also held key roles as Global Product Manager for Time Critical and Global Product Development Manager for Air Logistics. In these positions, she was instrumental in designing and implementing time-sensitive transportation solutions, optimizing product offerings, and driving innovation across air freight services. Her work consistently intersected with specialised cargo categories, requiring precision, compliance, and agility in execution.

Prior to her time at Kuehne+Nagel, Abplanalp worked at Triumph International in Zurich as a Global Transportation Specialist between 2014 and 2015. There, she managed transportation cost structures, led freight tenders, coordinated with logistics providers, and oversaw operational efficiencies within global supply chains.

Abplanalp's career includes an earlier tenure at IATA's Montreal office from 2012 to 2014, where she was involved in Integrated Settlement Systems operations. Her responsibilities encompassed systems monitoring, software testing, airline migration support, customer service processes, and coordination of revenue accounting functions—providing her with a foundational understanding of the association's operational ecosystem.

She began her career in Italy with P&B Logistica e Spedizioni, managing import and export operations across diverse cargo categories, including luxury goods, perishables, pharmaceuticals, and dangerous goods. Her role also involved handling customs documentation and coordinating freight movements, laying the groundwork for her expertise in specialised logistics.

With over 15 years of experience spanning air cargo, transportation management, and global product development, Abplanalp brings a comprehensive perspective to IATA's special cargo division. Her appointment signals a continued commitment by the association to strengthen sector-specific cargo initiatives and address the increasing complexity of global supply chains.

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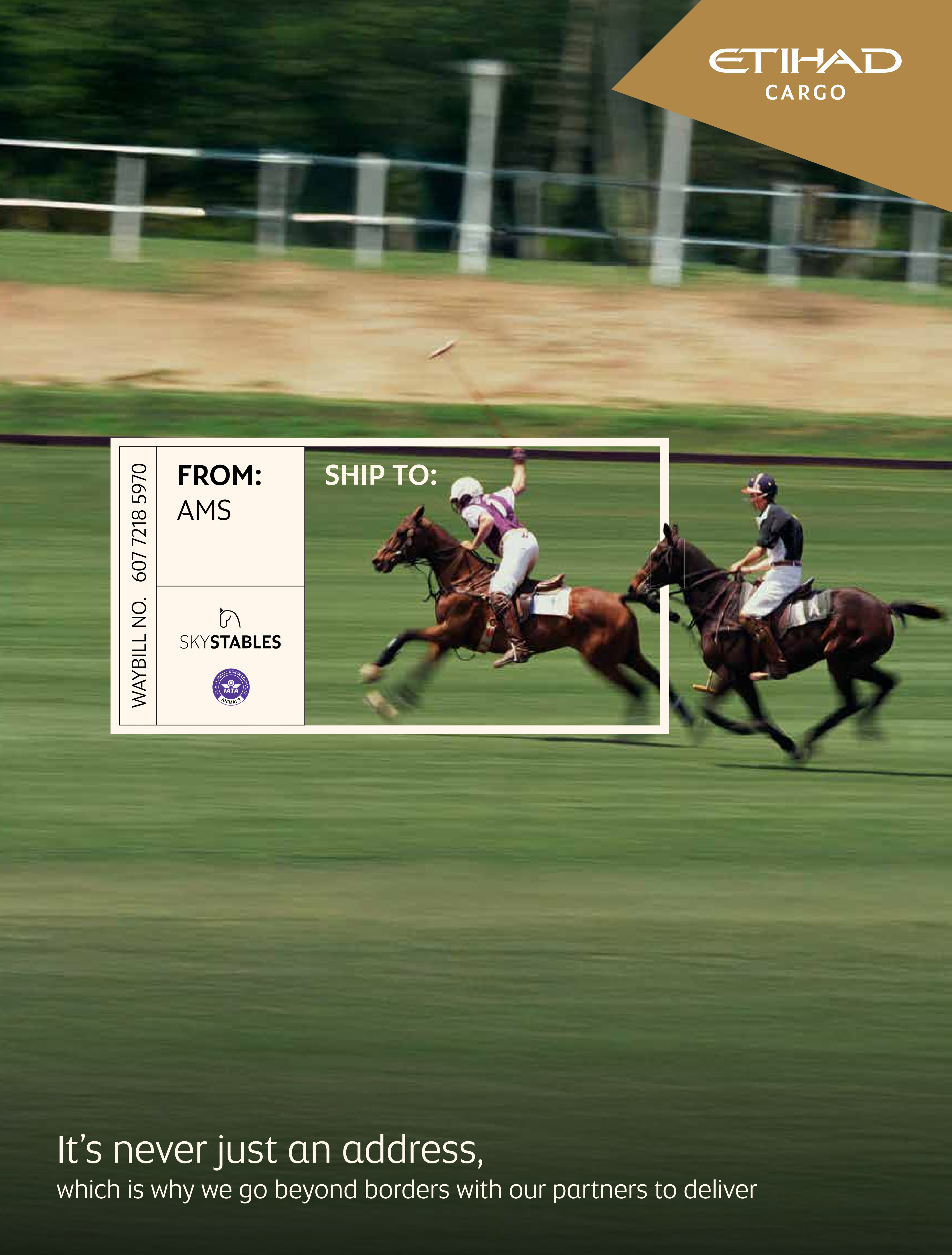
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