

Middle East's leading cargo monthly

October 2025

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# TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLING DRIVE

## air cargo in the Middle East



Driven by digitalisation, automation, and evolving global trade demands, the Middle East is fast becoming a hub of the cargo industry. Technology plays a pivotal role in operations. The need for the right workforce with enough experience is a key requirement in the industry. It is essential that public and private companies invest in continued training to keep teams updated and ready for the next challenge.



Dr Shehara Fernando

Today, the air cargo industry in the Middle East transports goods worth trillions of dollars annually. Along with that, increasing demands for automation, digital transformation, and sustainability pressures have risen.

Enhancing individual skills is imperative to being a successful businessman. Traditional training models are no longer sufficient, hence, organisations combine, and hone skill sets to be more relevant in the air cargo

industry in the Gulf. Another factor is retention of workforce, which needs to be updated all the time so that all touchpoints are covered. There is an upswing in young professionals who are interested in making a career in air cargo. Organisations must prioritise upskilling and retention to build a more resilient and engaged workforce capable of navigating disruptions, while sustaining growth. Integrating training, innovation, and employee engagement are crucial. Younger professions are increasingly seeking careers which are more meaningful.







## To stay competitive, biz must hone staff skills

The cargo industry is evolving with digitalisation, automation, and AI. To stay competitive, businesses must embed learning and foster a future-ready mindset. Digital tools and AI are part of daily tasks, enhancing speed, utilisation, and customer support.

At SolitAir, we aim to ensure employees feel empowered by technology. By combining technology with continuous learning, the firm keeps people engaged, skilled, and future ready.



**Hamdi Osman**  
Founder and CEO  
SolitAir

**“Digital tools and AI are part of daily tasks, enhancing speed, utilisation, and customer support.”**

## Sector to entice youth by featuring career growth

Attracting young talent to the air cargo industry requires a strategic approach that highlights the sector's dynamic nature, career growth opportunities, and tech advancements. Strategies include offering internships and appren-



**Chaminda Perera**  
Head, Cargo  
SriLankan Airlines

**“For achieving this, firms must showcase career growth opportunities, innovation, and purpose.”**

ticeships focussed on tech jobs, collaborating with educational institutions to create programmes, developing progression paths from entry-level onwards, organising industry tours, and hackathons.

## IATA's 25by2025 now resonate with GenZ

The industry can inspire the next generation by positioning itself as a technology-driven and purpose-led sector. By showcasing advancements such as AI-enabled build planning, and sustainable operations, Etihad Cargo demonstrates this is not just a logistics field, but a high-tech and future-focused career path. Diversity initiatives such as IATA's 25by2025 and sustainability programmes resonate with younger generation.



**Lubna Allaham**  
Senior Manager  
Cargo Customer  
Experience, Etihad Cargo

**“The industry can inspire the GenZ by positioning itself as a technology-driven and purpose-led sector.”**



## Making employees feel motivated is the key

The future of air cargo depends on how well it attracts and retains the next generation of professionals. Young talent is inspired when they see logistics as a dynamic industry driving trade, not just moving goods. To achieve this, firms must showcase career growth opportunities, innovation, and purpose. With digitalisation reshaping ops, upskilling must focus on automation tools, data-driven decision-making, and sustainable practices.

“Young talent is inspired when they see logistics as a dynamic industry driving trade, not just moving goods.”



**Abdul Shukoor**  
Airfreight Manager  
BGL Cargo

## Sustainability, tech appeal to young talent

The air cargo sector can attract young talent by showing that it's about global impact — from powering e-commerce to delivering life-saving supplies. Purpose-driven careers, sustainability, and technology make the sector exciting, while internships,



**Aaron Smith**  
Director  
aci logistics

“Digitalisation is reshaping ops, making the firms invest in upskilling through digital training, among others.”

diverse roles, and flexible work keep it appealing. Digitalisation is reshaping ops, making firms invest in upskilling via digital training and leadership development.

## Youth must take up supply chain as a career

We provide regular refresher and advanced training for new and existing staff, ensuring compliance with safety standards, service excellence, and customer requirements. Also, we are integrating courses on digitalisation to support ongoing business growth. The younger generation should look at supply chain as a promising career path. It is a dynamic industry, rapidly evolving with technology, and it plays a major role in global trade.

“Presently, training is being imparted on digitalisation. This is being done to support ongoing business growth.”



**Marc Prasad**  
Regional Vice President  
ALSI Global

## Logistics is more than just back-end work

To attract the younger generation to logistics, they must be shown it is not a dull back-office job. It is an industry that moves the world and changes lives. The company imparts training and mentoring programmes, especially in the MEA so that newcomers can see and learn what happens behind the scenes. Once on the job, they will get to see the demands of the job — getting a pharma shipment without delay to a hospital, among others.



**Johnny Hung**  
General Manager  
KS Global Logistics

“Recruits go through training and mentoring programmes so that they learn what takes place behind the scenes.”





# Rewriting the book on supply chain logistics

In the past few years, the Middle East has been emerging as a vital hub in the global supply chain, driven by its strategic location, infra investments, and diversification. Aligning with Saudi Vision 2030, Oman Vision 2040, and the UAE's economic agenda — D33, the region is focusing on its ports, free zones, and multimodal transport networks.



Dr Shehara Fernando

The Middle East's supply chain sector is undergoing remarkable transformation as the government and private stakeholders prioritise agility, sustainability, and technology driven growth. The region, traditionally reliant on oil-based trade flows, has diversified — strengthening its role in global commerce by investing in logistics corridors, smart ports, and free trade agreements (FTAs).

Digitalisation has become a cornerstone with AI,

blockchain, and IoT enabling real-time visibility and efficiency across supply chain operations. The UAE, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman are spearheading projects to integrate advanced technologies in terms of customs, warehousing, and last-mile delivery ensuring faster and more transparent processes.

The second priority in the region is sustainability. The governments are committed to net-zero emissions to ensure environmental responsibility. Private as well as

public sector firms are adopting green logistics practices — from electrifying fleets to optimising routes and reducing

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*The region, reliant on oil-based trade flows, is fortifying its role in global commerce by investing in logistics corridors, smart ports, and FTAs*

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CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The region has been the most resilient across the years — from handling the pandemic to facing global disruptions which took the region by storm. Connectivity across the GCC and beyond has strengthened its ability to adapt and thrive in a volatile global market.

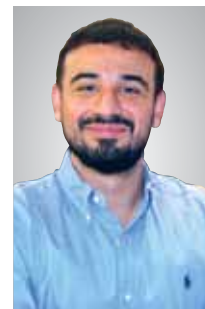
The Middle East is redefining its supply chain future with a focus on technology, sustainability, and resilience. Investments in ports, logistics zones, and multimodal connectivity are transforming the region into a global trade hub.





## Rapid delivery is vital in the Middle East

The Middle East is leveraging its location connecting East and West infrastructure, and trade policies. The region's ports and airports continue to expand capacity, while free zones and digital corridors create seamless link for global commerce. Today,



**Yousif Najim**  
CEO  
Orbit Logistics

“The Middle East is leveraging its location connecting East and West infrastructure, and trade policies.”

our priorities are to balance speed, resilience, sustainability, and digital transformation. Rapid delivery remains vital, but emphasis is placed on building robust, future-ready networks.

## Middle East working to lower emissions

The Middle East is positioning itself as a global supply chain hub by leveraging its location — connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa — world-class infra, and business-friendly policies. Its strengths include ports and airports, free zones, and logistics networks, enabling faster, cost-effective, and reliable movement of goods. Scanwell Logistics is working to reduce our carbon footprint and make environmentally responsible choices.



**Razmal Assen**  
Executive Director  
Scanwell Logistics

“Its strengths include ports and airports, free zones, and logistics networks, enabling movement of goods.”

## Region quickens supply chain transformation

The Middle East is positioned as a global corridor, linking trade lanes between Asia, Africa, and Europe. With infra investments, AI-powered networks, and one of the world's most tech-savvy populations, the region is accelerating supply chain transformation.



**Mary Oxley**  
VP, Sales & Marketing  
DHL Global Forwarding  
MEA

“While EV charging infra remains a challenge, digital adoption, and govt-led innovation are unlocking efficiencies.”

While EV charging infra remains a challenge, digital adoption, and government-led innovation are unlocking efficiencies. Our priorities are resilience, sustainability, and digitalisation.

## Gulf's location fortifies its position as cargo hub

The Middle East is strengthening its position as a global supply chain hub, leveraging its strategic location between Asia, Europe, and Africa, coupled with world-class airports, ports, and free zone ecosystems. The region's ability to facilitate fast transshipment and linking emerging markets makes it competitive. The priorities are clear: speed and resilience remain critical in meeting customer expectations.



**Rizwan Kareem**  
Director, Air Freight  
Operations, ATS World

“The region's ability to facilitate faster transshipment and linking emerging markets makes it competitive.”



## Govt policies give sector a competitive edge

The Middle East is cementing its role as a global supply chain hub by combining world-class infra with its unmatched location between East and West. Modern airports, deep-sea ports, and free zones make trade seamless, while forward-thinking govt policies and heavy investment in technology give the region a competitive edge. What sets it apart is its agility — adapting quickly to global shifts, while staying focussed on growth.



**Nick Heidemann**  
Operations Manager  
aci Logistics

**“What sets it apart is its agility — adapting quickly to global shifts, while staying focussed on growth.”**

## ME's world class infra makes it competitive

The Middle East is strategically located amid three continents. Key ports, such as Jebel Ali and Khalifa, along with DXB, DOH, and RUH, ensure seamless global connectivity. Supported by leading airlines and shipping lines, the region combines advanced logistics,



**AS Farhan**  
AGM, Freight & Logistics  
Al Rais Cargo Agencies

**“Backed by leading airlines & shipping lines, the region combines advanced logistics and pro-biz policies etc.”**

innovative solutions, and pro-biz policies. Its strategic location, world class infra, and commitment to efficiency make the region a link in today's supply chain.

## Sustainability is must for global ESG goals

The Middle East is firmly establishing itself as a pivotal global supply chain hub by capitalising on its location, infrastructure, and progressive policy frameworks. The region offers unparalleled access to global markets. Investments in world-class ports, airports, and integrated free zones are supported by KSA's Vision 2030 and the UAE's commitment to logistics innovation. Sustainability has become a must to be aligned with ESG commitment.



**Abid Hamza**  
General Manager,  
Business Development  
Fast Logistics Cargo

**“Investments in ports, airports, and free zones are backed by Vision 2030 and UAE's commitment to logistics innovation.”**





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# ARABIAN CARGO AWARDS

## COUNTDOWN BEGINS

On 24 November, the Arabian Cargo Awards will celebrate the achievements and innovations shaping the air cargo and logistics sector in the Middle East. The event recognises companies and individuals who are growing the industry, using digital technology, and promoting sustainability, while inspiring others with their hard work, creativity, and innovative leadership.





CT Bureau

The Arabian Cargo Awards 2025 will take centre stage in November, to applaud the achievements and innovation of the Middle East's air cargo and logistics sector. Considered one of the most prestigious ceremonies in the industry, the Awards will shine a light on companies, individuals, and initiatives that have made an impact in advancing efficiency, technology, and service excellence across the region.

"The Arabian Cargo Awards are not just an event; they are a celebration of the spirit of innovation, commitment, and perseverance that defines our industry. The Awards are not just about fame, but about impact. It is an opportunity to recognise accomplishments, applaud tireless endeavour, and inspire everyone involved to continue pushing the boundaries of

excellence," said SanJeet, Mentor, Arabian Cargo Awards.

The cargo industry in the Middle East has taken strides in recent years, driven by rising global trade, e-commerce expansion, and technology-driven logistics solutions. Digital tools, such as advanced tracking, automated warehouses, and smart route planning have made operations more efficient and reliable, while sustainability efforts are helping the industry become greener and more responsible.

The evening will showcase the sector's finest talents and leading firms companies, as winners are announced live and recognised for their contributions to operational excellence, sustainability, and customer service.

From established industry leaders to emerging innovators, the Awards highlight the diverse talent driving growth

in air cargo and logistics across the Middle East.

Winners are selected through a transparent digital voting process, ensuring credibility and fairness.

*From industry leaders to emerging innovators, the Awards highlight the diverse talent driving growth in air cargo and logistics across the Middle East*

The 2025 edition will honour achievements across Personal, Business, Trending, and Partner categories, each recognising a unique contribution to the industry. While voting is already underway,

nominations are still open. This is the moment to put forward the names of individuals and companies that deserve to be recognised.

As an invitation-only event, the Arabian Cargo Awards 2025 will bring together industry professionals, providing them a space for networking and knowledge-sharing, while acknowledging their achievements and discussing future trends.

The event marks the entry of Embassy Suites by Hilton into the UAE, joining as this year's 'Hospitality partner'. "As Embassy Suites by Hilton makes its debut in the UAE, we are pleased to partner with the Awards ceremony to mark this milestone. This collaboration helps us build connections and establish our position as a key player in the region's hospitality market," said Ziad Tantawi, Cluster General Manager, Embassy Suites by Hilton.



# Ethiopian Cargo horizon swells, fortifies its Middle East network

From expanding cargo operations to enhancing service networks, Ethiopian Airlines (ET) is setting new benchmarks in the industry. In an interview, **Yamrot Nigussie, Regional Manager (Cargo), Gulf Region, Ethiopian Airlines**, spoke about attracting young talent, upskilling, expanding cargo routes, and the role of e-commerce.

CT Bureau

## How important is the UAE for Ethiopian Cargo?

The UAE is a key destination for Ethiopian Cargo. Currently, we operate from three airports — Al Maktoum International (Dubai), Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah, with major cargo operations out of Al Maktoum and Sharjah. From Al Maktoum, we operate two weekly Boeing 777Fs. In Sharjah, operations have grown to over eight weekly frequencies — Boeing 767, 737, and 777Fs.

Sharjah is a key gateway to Africa, with connections to Nigeria, Chad, Somalia (Mogadishu and Hargeisa), Kenya, and Eldoret. Nigeria alone is served four times a week with a 45 tonne capacity.

Operating out of Sharjah provides an advantage for customers: Shipments are delivered via direct, point-to-point



**Yamrot Nigussie**  
Regional Manager (Cargo)  
Gulf Region, Ethiopian Airlines

services rather than passing through transit hubs. This ensures faster connections and positions Sharjah a premium service offering for our prime customers.

## Could you tell us about the new cargo routes Ethiopian Airlines has introduced?

For 2024–2025, ET has expanded its destinations by five, reaching over 17 cargo destinations. This includes two new sectors to Western Europe, two to China, and one to Latin America (Ecuador). In the UAE, we added passenger airports in Sharjah (June) and Abu Dhabi (July), which contribute to belly capacity. Freighter ops may be launched to these locations in future.

## Do you operate cargo on passenger flights?

Yes. From Dubai, we operate three flights daily, each carrying close to 20 tonnes in belly.

## Which products dominate Ethiopian Cargo flow from Africa to the UAE?

Outbound from Africa to the

*“Sharjah is a key gateway to Africa, with connections to Nigeria, Chad, Somalia (Mogadishu and Hargeisa), Kenya, and Eldoret.”*

Middle East, perishables are the primary cargo — flowers, meat, fresh produce, vegetables, and other products. From the UAE to Africa, we transport electronics and general cargo. We are also focusing on pharma and e-commerce, which are high-priority growth areas.

## How do you see the e-commerce market evolving for Ethiopian Cargo over the next five years?

We are optimistic. With the recent upgrade of our e-commerce facility in Addis Ababa and a dedicated team in place, we expect substantial growth in e-commerce.

While there is still much work to be done across all regions, the foundation is set for improvement in e-commerce movement.

## How do you work with cargo agents to provide a seamless experience?

The main advantage we offer is a prime service — direct, point-to-point cargo from Sharjah to the destination, avoiding hub delays. For hub operations, we track the shipments closely in a bid to minimise transit times and enhance overall service quality.

## What is your USP? What sets Ethiopian Cargo apart?

While other cargo carriers may offer similar services, our uniqueness lies in our commitment to our customers. We prioritise reliability, maintain weekly schedules regardless of challenges, and ensure consistent service quality. This dedication and commitment that we give from our end make us unique to our customers. 🇪🇹

## KEY FACTS

- ❖ The carrier recently launched pax operations to Sharjah and Abu Dhabi to boost belly capacity.
- ❖ Sharjah serves as a key point-to-point hub linking the UAE with African markets, such as Nigeria, Chad, Somalia, and Kenya.
- ❖ Exports from Africa to the UAE include flowers, meat, fresh produce, and vegetables.





# To boost capacity, Etihad Cargo & Atlas Air join forces

The objective of the long-term partnership is boosting additional capacity to Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi, and Madrid. The long-term partnership between Atlas Air and Etihad Cargo is tailored towards capturing growth opportunities in the region. Etihad Cargo's partnership with Atlas Air represents a step in scaling capacity and extending its reach.

CT Bureau

Atlas Air, a subsidiary of Atlas Air Worldwide, a leading global provider of outsourced aviation logistics, has entered a long-term partnership with Etihad Cargo. The collaboration comes amid rising demand for general merchandise, e-commerce, automotive parts, pharmaceuticals, and perishable goods across key trade lanes.

Atlas Air will operate the freighter on routes linking Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi, and Madrid. The pact builds on the longstanding relationship between the two airlines from 2012 when Atlas Air first

began providing multi-year flight services to Etihad Cargo.

The 777F — the world's largest and longest-range twin-engine freighter — offers a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes, while delivering fuel-efficient and reliable performance, thereby enabling Etihad Cargo to scale its operations.

"We are pleased to extend our partnership with Etihad Cargo," said Michael Steen, CEO, Atlas Air Worldwide. "We are delighted to tailor this long-term dedicated capacity solution to help Etihad Cargo capture growth opportunities. With our fleet of wide-body freighters and deep operating



Michael Steen  
CEO  
Atlas Air Worldwide



Stanislas Brun  
Chief Cargo Officer  
Etihad Airways

*"We are delighted to tailor this long-term dedicated capacity solution to help Etihad Cargo capture growth opportunities."*

*"With Etihad Airways' pax fleet continuing to grow, it is essential our freighters expand in parallel to sustain the momentum."*

connectivity. Etihad Cargo reinforces its ability to meet evolving customer demand, strengthen high-volume trade lanes, and introduce greater flexibility across key markets. The additional capacity enhances the reliability and agility of our services, ensuring the delivery of seamless

and efficient cargo solutions worldwide. The Boeing 777 freighter's combination of payload, range, and fuel efficiency supports the cargo carrier-Cargo's commitment to providing agile, sustainable, and end-to-end air cargo services enhancing reliability across its expanding network. 🇦🇪



expertise, Atlas Air is proud to be a trusted partner of choice, and we look forward to supporting Etihad Cargo's continued success," Steen added.

"Etihad Cargo's collaboration with Atlas Air represents a step in scaling capacity and extending our global reach," said Stanislas Brun, Chief Cargo Officer, Etihad Airways. "With Etihad Airways' passenger fleet continuing to grow, it is essential that our freighter fleet expand in parallel to sustain the momentum and deliver end-to-end network





# Erecting a **Saudi air cargo hub** by Riyadh Air & SATS SA

Riyadh Air has signed a five-year partnership with SATS Saudi Arabia Company (SATS SA) — a subsidiary of SATS Ltd — to provide end-to-end cargo handling services at key airports across the Kingdom. The agreement positions Riyadh as a leading regional cargo hub in line with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 objectives.



**R**iyadh Air's cargo operations will be anchored at King Khalid International Airport (RUH) with additional support from King Fahd International Airport in Dammam and King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah. SATS Saudi Arabia will build world-class hub management capabilities for the airline, contributing to the

*By leveraging SATS' advanced cargo handling capabilities and global network, we are laying a strong foundation to build a world-class air cargo offering*

Kingdom's Vision 2030 target of handling 4.5 million tonnes of cargo annually.

Under the agreement, SATS Saudi Arabia will deliver dedicated cargo handling services at its 60,000 sqm RUH



**Adam Boukadida**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Riyadh Air

air freight terminal, equipped with specialised zones for pharma, e-commerce, live animals, valuables, and dangerous goods. Riyadh Air will gain access to SATS' network of 225 stations, supported by 250 airline and freight forwarders.

"This partnership with SATS Saudi Arabia marks a milestone in Riyadh Air's journey to become a leading global carrier. By leveraging SATS' advanced cargo handling capabilities and global network, we are laying a foundation to build a world-class air cargo offering from day one," said Adam Boukadida, Chief Financial Officer, Riyadh Air. The hub will be powered by



**Bob Chi**  
CEO Gateway Services  
Asia-Pacific, SATS Limited

centralised cargo and security control centres for real-time oversight and seamless

routing across Riyadh Air's future global network. Operations will deploy SATS' CO-SYS+ Next Generation Cargo Management System, integrating with real-time tracking, digitised cargo flows, and automated truck dock management for higher efficiency.

"We are honoured that Riyadh Air has selected SATS as a trusted partner for its ambitious cargo growth journey," said Bob Chi, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Gateway Services Asia Pacific, SATS Limited. This scalable infra will support Riyadh Air's long-term growth.

## Highlights

- Five-year deal between Riyadh Air and SATS Saudi Arabia
- Cargo hub anchored at RUH supported by DMM and JED
- Supports Vision 2030 target: 4.5 mn tonnes annual cargo
- Riyadh Air to connect over 100 destinations by 2030

## Capabilities

- 60,000 sqm air freight terminal at RUH
- Specialised zones: pharma, e-commerce, valuables, live animals, dangerous goods
- Centralised cargo and security control centres
- COSYS+ system with real-time tracking and digitisation



# KSA opens domestic skies, VistaJet gets first-mover advantage

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority has granted VistaJet permission to ply domestic flights within the Kingdom, making it the first international private jet operator to do so. The move is part of wider efforts to expand air travel services in the Kingdom and to support the objectives of Vision 2030.

CT Bureau

The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) has granted authorisation to VistaJet allowing the airline to carry passengers within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The decision marks the first time a foreign charter operator has been granted such rights.

The approval follows the removal of cabotage restrictions for on-demand charter



**Awad Al-Sulami**  
Executive Vice President  
Economic Policies and Logistics  
Services, GACA



**Mazen Obaid**  
President, Middle East  
VistaJet International

*The move allows VistaJet to expand operations in the Kingdom in a strategic step that aligns with KSA's vision to strengthen its aviation industry*

*The authorisation also advances the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's goal of transforming into an a global logistics hub connecting three continents*



operations, which came into effect on 1 May 2025. The move allows VistaJet to expand operations in the Kingdom in a strategic step that aligns with KSA's vision to strengthen its aviation industry.

"Authorising VistaJet as the first international private jet operator for domestic operations is a milestone in enhancing the Kingdom's general aviation market," said Awad Al-Sulami, Executive Vice President, Economic Policies and Logistics Services, GACA.

"We are delighted to be working with the Kingdom and GACA to reinforce our commitment to offer clients

reliable, flexible, and trusted flying solutions through our international and regional infrastructure," said Mazen Obaid, President, Middle East, VistaJet International.

The authorisation also supports the objectives of the Aviation Programme under the National Transport and Logistics Strategy, which aims to position the Kingdom as the Middle East's leading aviation sector by 2030.

It also advances Saudi Arabia's goal of transforming into an international logistics hub connecting three continents, while supporting the continued growth of tourism. 🇸🇦

## Highlights

- VistaJet becomes first global operator authorised for domestic charter flights in KSA
- Authorisation follows removal of cabotage restrictions
- Marks a major milestone for the Saudi general aviation market
- Sets the stage for increased competition and service quality in private air travel

## Achievements

- KSA opens domestic skies to international private operators
- VistaJet gains first-mover advantage in Saudi private aviation
- Expected to enhance high-end charter services and tourism travel
- Advances aviation liberalisation under the National Transport & Logistics Strategy

# Data centre logistics hub launched by Arvato, ATC

Functioning in Dubai CommerCity, the data centre, which expanded hyperscale capabilities, was developed by Arvato in partnership with ATC. The focus is on ensuring seamless execution for hyperscaler clients at a global scale, said **Keith Young, Managing Director, ATC**, and **Vice President, Data Centre Services, Arvato**.

CT Bureau

The initiative is being delivered in collaboration with ATC, a specialist in data centre logistics bought by Arvato in 2025. The companies will offer an end-to-end service portfolio covering transportation and warehousing, and white-glove delivery of critical data centre equipment. The model mirrors ATC's proven European setup with a focus on customs clearance, regulatory compliance, and UAE-specific expertise.

"Launching operations in the UAE is a strategic move for us, geographically and in terms of industry growth," Umur Ozkal, Managing Director, Türkiye and UAE, Arvato, said. "We offer an integrated, global-to-local data centre logistics solution that strengthens our global hyperscaler partnerships and supports



**Keith Young**  
MD, ATC &  
VP, Data Centre Services, Arvato

digital infrastructure in one of the world's fastest-growing tech markets," he added.

By using ATC's experience in handling sensitive data centre installations alongside Arvato's ability in freight forwarding, project coordination, and global systems integration, the new hub is designed to deliver end-to-end solutions for hyperscaler clients.



**Umur Ozkal**  
Managing Director  
Türkiye and UAE, Arvato

*For Arvato, the new operation sets the stage for broader growth across the Gulf Cooperation Council and MENA regions*

"Expanding into the UAE allows us to apply our technical logistics ability in one of the most dynamic regions for digital infra. We are proud to contribute our deep specialisation in white-glove services and data centre installations. Our focus on precision and excellence ensures seamless execution for hyperscaler clients running at a global scale," added Keith Young, MD, ATC, and Vice President, Data Centre Services, Arvato.

With the UAE serving as a gateway to the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, this expansion positions Arvato to play a central role in meeting rising demand for cloud services. The gov't's support for digital transformation and advanced connectivity infra reinforces the UAE's status as a technology hub. For Arvato, the new operation sets the stage for broader growth across the GCC and MENA regions, underlining its ability to deliver complex cross-border projects to stringent quality and time standards.





# 720 tonnes of aid distributed worldwide by QR Cargo

Qatar Airways Cargo (QR Cargo) has marked World Humanitarian Day by reaffirming its commitment to delivering life-saving aid through its WeQare programme. Beyond Airlink, QR Cargo supports humanitarian initiatives through partnerships with UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Food Programme

CT Bureau

Over the past five years, the airline has transported 720 tonnes of humanitarian supplies in support of Airlink and 42 of its non-profit partners, reaching more than 15.5 million people across 34 countries. These efforts have translated into savings of an estimated US\$ 6.59 million for NGOs, allowing critical funds to be redirected to scaling up relief operations.

In the last year alone, QR Cargo shipped 136 tonnes of critical supplies to 12 countries, supporting Airlink and 16 of its partners with everything from medicines and clean water to shelter materials. The contribution generated US\$ 2.19 million in logistics savings, helping front-line organisations respond faster to global emergencies.



**Mark Drusch**  
Chief Officer Cargo  
Qatar Airways Cargo



**Stephanie Steege**  
VP, Humanitarian Programs  
Airlink

“WeQare is more than a name, it is a mission,” said Mark Drusch, Chief Officer Cargo, QR Cargo. “We are committed to helping Airlink and their partners deliver the right aid to the right place at the right time. We continue to support charitable, environmental, and humanitarian initiatives across the globe and will always step up to support our partners,”

*We are committed to helping Airlink and their partners deliver the right aid to the right place at the right time*

he added. “The partnership between QR Cargo and Airlink is critical in delivering aid to hard-to-reach crises and supporting our health system strengthening programmes. We are proud of what we have accomplished together. For over a third of Airlink’s 15-year history, QR Cargo has made a transformative impact on our programmes worldwide. We thank everyone at QR Cargo for their years of support and look forward to continuing to bring hope and relief to communities in crisis for years to come,” Drusch added.

Beyond Airlink, QR Cargo continues to support humanitarian initiatives through partnerships with UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Food Programme. In 2024–2025, it ferried a total of 470 tonnes of humanitarian aid to countries affected by crises. 🇸🇦

## AT A GLANCE

**Aid shipped pro bono in 5 years**  
720 tonnes

**People reached in 34 countries**  
15.5 million

**Savings for NGOs globally**  
US\$ 6.59 million

**Delivered in 2024**  
136 tonnes

**Humanitarian aid moved in last fiscal**  
470 tonnes



# Technology, emerging markets transforming cargo industry

From the rise of e-commerce to the untapped potential of Africa and new developments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the air cargo industry is entering a new phase of growth. In an interview, **Rohit Thakwani, CEO, Airglow Aviation Group**, talks about the challenges, opportunities, and the role of technology in the future of global logistics.

 CT Bureau

## How has this year been for air cargo, given the shifting global trends?

Despite geopolitical tensions and tariff issues, particularly in the Middle East, the industry has performed strongly. Air cargo volumes have continued to rise, showing year-on-year growth. While volatility remains, the sector has managed to stay relatively stable, which is encouraging.

## Which commodities are driving cargo flows through the ME?

Dubai's geographic advantage as a hub between East and

West remains very crucial. For Airglow Aviation, the US tariffs have had minimal impact since much of its focus is on Africa, the CIS, and Afghanistan. Growth has largely been powered by e-commerce products, with significant movement from China and India.

Consolidation happens in Dubai before redistribution worldwide. Electronics is another significant driver, with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) acting as a warehousing hub for third-party logistics (3PL) solutions. Beyond mobile phones and televisions, there is a growing demand for spare parts — automotive, aircraft, and electronics — for repair and maintenance.

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*For Airglow Aviation, the US tariffs have had minimal impact since much of its focus is on Africa, the CIS, and Afghanistan*

---

## Mega projects, such as the Kingdom's NEOM, are reshaping the region. Has Airglow Aviation been involved?

As airline representatives, we do not compete with our forwarder partners by directly

handling projects. However, we do assist by arranging volumes and operating urgent charters. For NEOM, we have supported forwarders with several charters, but we remain strictly in our role as facilitators, not competitors.

## Africa is a strong focus for the firm. How do you view its potential, especially with Uganda Airlines?

Africa is emerging and has untapped potential, and Uganda provides an early mover advantage. Airglow Aviation represents Uganda Airlines in UAE, India, and other locations. The firm sees opportunities in perishables, such as fresh produce and flowers.





*KSA is rapidly transforming. Beyond religious travel, more airlines are opening direct routes, and cargo volumes are set to rise significantly*

Beyond Uganda, East and West Africa hold growth prospects, and that is where our expansion is concentrated.

### **Will Uganda Airlines expand into freighter ops?**

Currently, Uganda Airlines operates A330 wide-bodies on

international routes, providing significant belly-hold capacity. They are already in talks with Boeing and Airbus about acquiring freighters, with feasibility studies underway. By next year, the company expects them to introduce dedicated freighters to supplement belly cargo.

### **How do you see KSA's growth compared to other Gulf states?**

The UAE has seen exponential growth, particularly post-pandemic. But the Kingdom is rapidly transforming. Beyond religious travel, more airlines are opening direct routes, and cargo volumes are set to rise significantly. In the next five to 10 years, the Kingdom will



**Rohit Thakwani**  
CEO  
Airglow Aviation Group

emerge as one of the strongest markets in the region.

### **Will Airglow Aviation expand its presence in the Kingdom?**

Airglow already has a presence there, but expansion is underway. Plans are in progress and should be finalised in the next six months. Once complete, the firm will announce new initiatives for the Kingdom.

### **Outside of electronics and e-commerce, what commodities dominate GCC cargo flows?**

UAE, as a hub, ships everything — from pharma and machinery to election ballot papers and household goods. Traders often buy in bulk in Dubai and ship to regions where access is limited or import duties are high. This includes Africa but also other emerging markets. With strong imports from China, the local trade ecosystem continues to expand. Pharmaceuticals are becoming important, given the UAE's status as a healthcare hub.

### **E-commerce volumes have surged post-pandemic. How is this changing your business?**

E-commerce was always set to grow, but the pace has exceeded expectations. The pandemic normalised home delivery, and now customers expect faster service. Volumes have skyrocketed — some customers have grown from 2 tonnes to 40 tonnes per shipment. This growth will not slow down; instead, it will accelerate with

more freighters, faster transit times, and wider connectivity.

### **Technology is advancing rapidly. How is the firm adopting AI and automation?**

We have eliminated paper from the firm's operations and integrated AI-driven systems that streamline bookings, reduce errors, and enhance efficiency. Customers now receive real-time updates, such as shipment departures, without manual intervention. The system is scalable: Setting up a new route or station can be done within a day, and onboarding a new airline takes just minutes. This digital-first approach has made us faster, leaner, and more transparent for airlines and forwarders.

### **How are you engaging younger talent in air cargo?**

We offer internships in partnership with schools and universities. The feedback has been consistent: Students find the industry dynamic, fast paced, and full of problem-solving opportunities. Every day brings new challenges.

## **IN BRIEF**

- ❖ Airglow Aviation represents Uganda Airlines and plans freighter operations next year
- ❖ The firm to expand its presence in Saudi Arabia within six months
- ❖ Dubai remains a key hub between East and West
- ❖ E-commerce drives most growth, especially from China and India
- ❖ Electronics and spare parts are major cargo commodities
- ❖ Africa offers enormous potential, particularly for perishables

# DHL e-commerce acquires minority stake in AJEX

DHL e-commerce has completed acquiring minority stake in AJEX. This marks the expansion of DHL e-commerce into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As part of DHL Group's Strategy 2030 — Accelerate Sustainable Growth — the company is investing €500 million into high-growth markets such as the Kingdom.

CT Bureau

**D**HL e-commerce, the parcel logistics arm of DHL Group, has acquired a minority stake in AJEX Logistics Services, a leading supply chain and transportation company in the GCC, owned by Ajlan & Bros Holding Group.

The partnership marks a significant step in DHL's expansion into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's fast-growing parcel market, while providing AJEX the backing to accelerate its footprint across the



**Pablo Ciano**  
CEO  
DHL eCommerce



**Ajlan Mohamed Al Ajlan**  
Group Managing Director  
Ajlan & Bros Holding Group



**Mohammed Albayati**  
Group CEO  
AJEX Logistics Services

Middle East. With DHL's global expertise and AJEX's regional network, the collaboration

will enhance delivery efficiency, reliability and customer experience across the Kingdom.

"The partnership will not only elevate standards of efficiency and reliability across the region's delivery sector but also contribute to Saudi Vision 2030 goals," said Ajlan Mohamed Al Ajlan, Group Managing Director, Ajlan & Bros Holding Group.

As part of DHL Group's Strategy 2030 — Accelerate Sustainable Growth — the company is investing €500 million into high-growth markets such as the Kingdom. "The customer-centric approach and regional presence of AJEX coupled with DHL's global expertise will enable us to deliver reliable, affordable, and sustainable parcel solutions across the region," said Pablo Ciano, Chief Executive Officer, DHL e-commerce.

"The minority stake acquisition by DHL e-commerce in AJEX marks a testament to the market credibility we have earned so far. We are now ready to enter the next phase of our career growth. For our customers across the Kingdom and the Middle East, this means access to faster, smarter, and more innovative delivery services, powering the region's e-commerce markets," said Mohammed Albayati, Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO), AJEX, added.

Under the terms of the acquisition by DHL e-commerce — DHL e-commerce will take a seat on the AJEX's management board with the option to increase its stake to a majority share in the future. Going forward, AJEX will operate under the new brand identity: AJEX, a partner of DHL e-commerce. 🚚

## Highlights

- DHL e-commerce acquires minority stake in AJEX
- AJEX will now operate under a new brand
- Strengthens presence in KSA & Middle East e-commerce market
- Partnership aligned with Saudi Vision 2030 goals

## Facts & Figures

- DHL Group committing €500 mn investment into KSA
- Saudi e-commerce market projected for double-digit annual growth
- 1,200 vehicles in AJEX fleet
- 2,000 logistics professionals employed by AJEX





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# UAE–Malaysia CEPA set to unlock trade, investment opportunities

The CEPA is likely to serve as a catalyst for bilateral trade and investment, thereby creating an enabling framework for private sector collaboration between the two nations. It marks the next step in this deepening partnership — positioning both economies for sustained growth and expanded cooperation across high-potential sectors.

CT Bureau

His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade, UAE, met with the Malaysian Business Council in the UAE to highlight opportunities that will arise from the recently signed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the UAE and Malaysia. The CEPA is likely to serve as a catalyst for bilateral trade and investment, thereby creating an enabling framework for closer private sector collaboration between the two nations.

His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, said, “The CEPA will provide market access, reduce customs duties, and streamline trade processes across various sectors, positioning the UAE and Malaysian firms for mutual growth.” He added, “With Malaysia’s robust export-based economy and commitment to open, rules-based trade — as



**HE Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi**  
Minister of Foreign Trade  
UAE

demonstrated by its network of 16 FTAs, including RCEP and CPTPP — we see potential for collaboration to achieve mutual prosperity.”

Underscoring Malaysia’s role as one of UAE’s most important ASEAN partners, His Excellency Al Zeyoudi mentioned that most of the exports of UAE are ruled by the pacts under Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and Comprehensive and Progres-

*In 2024, UAE–Malaysia non-oil trade reached US\$ 5.5 billion, up 10.9 per cent YoY. In H1 2025, volumes touched US\$ 3.3 billion.*

sive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. His Excellency pointed to AI, renewable energy, logistics, and health-care as sectors with collaboration potential.

Bilateral trade momentum between the two nations continues to accelerate. Last year alone, UAE–Malaysia non-oil trade reached US\$ 5.5 billion, up 10.9 per cent year-on-year. In the first half of 2025, trade volumes touched US\$ 3.3 billion, reflecting a 30.9 per cent growth.

The two nations have committed to fortifying reciprocal FDI. UAE firms, including Mubadala Energy and First Abu Dhabi Bank have expanded into Malaysia, while Malaysian firms such as GISB Holdings have set up presence in the UAE.

The UAE’s broader trade engagement with ASEAN is on the rise. With CEPAs signed with Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Vietnam, the UAE’s non-oil trade with ASEAN countries reached US\$ 37.7 billion in 2024, an increase of 4.2 per cent over 2023 and 16.8 per cent from 2022. ASEAN accounted for 4.6 per cent of the UAE’s total global non-oil trade and 11.3 per cent of its trade with non-Arab Asian partners. The UAE–Malaysia CEPA marks the next step in this partnership — positioning them for sustained growth and expanded cooperation across high-potential sectors. 🇦🇪



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# ‘Global air cargo continues to stand out as efficient option’

As the cargo industry evolves, Azimi Cargo and Logistics continues to play a significant role in humanitarian aid and commercial freight. AS Azimi, MD and CEO, Azimi Cargo and Logistics, shares his views on market trends, rise of e-commerce, operational resilience, and plans by year-end.

CT Bureau

## How has this year been, considering the shifting cargo trends in the Middle East?

This year has seen trends evolving due to regional tensions and security concerns in Iran and other parts of the Middle East. However, for those with broader resources and wider operations, such challenges can often be transformed into opportunities. When compared to last year, the company has faced difficult moments, particularly in logistics and air cargo movement.

## Which commodities have dominated your cargo movements?

As a trusted partner of the United Nations (UN) and various humanitarian organisations, the Azimi Group focuses on transporting humanitarian aid, medicines, and commercial cargo.



AS Azimi  
MD and CEO  
Azimi Cargo and Logistics

## Have you observed growth for air cargo sector, especially as the end of the year approaches?

Demand for logistics and air cargo remains constant, and with technology advancing rapidly, the sector is evolving just as quickly. As consumers demand faster solutions, air cargo continues to stand out as the most efficient option, and the industry is witnessing massive growth.

## How do you assess the growth of e-commerce within the air cargo sector?

E-commerce has accelerated at an unprecedented rate after the pandemic. Over the past two to three years, we have observed remarkable growth and significant shifts within the e-commerce industry.

## How are you addressing payment gateway tariffs and, cybersecurity risks, issues in GCC region?

Each company implements its own systems and security

software to safeguard against cyber threats. As far as payments are concerned, the Azimi Group does not engage with sanctioned countries, and as we work with government organisations, the United Nations, and compliant states, we do not face payment gateway difficulties.

## What are your priorities for next year?

When customers select a logistics partner, they value past performance, service reliability, and efficiency. I am grateful to our esteemed clients for choosing Azimi Cargo and Azimi Group. We

*Demand for logistics and air cargo remains constant, and with tech advancing rapidly, the cargo sector is evolving just as quickly*

have made a commitment on delivering excellence in service quality, timeliness, and excellent customer satisfaction as we move forward into the coming year. 🌟





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An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The top half of the image shows the turquoise ocean with gentle waves lapping onto a wide, white sandy beach. Scattered across the beach are numerous palm trees, some with vibrant yellow fronds, and several thatched-roof huts. A few small boats are anchored near the shore. The bottom half of the image shows more of the beach area, including more palm trees, thatched-roof buildings, and a paved road or path. The overall scene is idyllic and tropical.

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# KN obtains **EDE** certification, strengthens pharma logistics

The EDE certification adds a layer to Kuehne + Nagel's (KN) healthcare offering by enabling compliant storage for active pharmaceutical ingredients. The company's 42,000 sqm fulfilment centre in Dubai South includes 25,500 sqm dedicated to temperature-controlled healthcare storage.

 CT Bureau

**K**uehne+Nagel (KN) in the UAE has obtained certification from the Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE) to store and handle raw pharmaceuticals at its Dubai South facility — a move to strengthen the company's healthcare and life sciences logistics capabilities in the Middle East and Africa.

The EDE certification adds a layer to Kuehne + Nagel's healthcare offering by enabling compliant storage for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). This complements its existing license to store finished

*This complements its license to store finished medical products, creating a solution that supports customers throughout the production cycle*

medical products, creating a full-service solution that supports customers throughout the production cycle. The certification follows a formal assessment of the Safa Alkhayat, the







company's appointed pharmacist, who obtained licensing under Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards. This milestone, endorsed by the Ministry of Health, positions KN to address gaps in specialised infra across regional supply chains.

The company's 42,000 sqm fulfilment centre in Dubai South includes 25,500 sqm dedicated to temperature-controlled healthcare storage. Facilities include cold chambers maintained at 2–8°C, restricted-access zones, and compliance with Good Distribution



**Leon Diradourian**  
GCC Cluster Managing Director  
Kuehne+Nagel

Practice and Good Storage Practice requirements. The site

*This certification marks a milestone in strengthening the company's healthcare and life sciences supply chain offering. It benefits clients of healthcare industry*

is supported by advanced security systems to ensure integrity and traceability.

"This certification marks a milestone in strengthening KN's healthcare and life sciences supply chain offering. It benefits customers across all stages of the production cycle in the healthcare industry," said Leon Diradourian, GCC Cluster Managing Director, KN.

By adding raw material handling to its portfolio, KN enhances its logistics capabilities in the region's pharmaceutical sector. 🇦🇪

#### Highlights

- Reduced lead times across the pharmaceuticals logistics chain
- Raw material handling integration improves supply chain efficiency
- Enhanced ability to meet time-sensitive pharmaceutical demands

#### Impact

- Streamlines end-to-end logistics from raw materials to finished products
- Strengthens compliance with stringent pharma industry regulations
- Improved market access for life sciences products in the region





# FedEx launches first nonstop flight from Americas to KSA

FedEx has inaugurated its first nonstop flight connecting the US and Europe directly to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The milestone strengthens KSA's logistics infrastructure, supports Vision 2030, and enhances access to international trade lanes, says **Richard Smith, COO, International and CEO, Airline, FedEx**.

 CT Bureau

**F**edEx's new dedicated service operates six times weekly, linking Riyadh with key global markets in the Americas and Europe with onward connections to Guangzhou and Shanghai via a B777F. Shipments from Riyadh are distributed across the Northern Gulf using FedEx's air and Middle East Road Network, providing Kingdom-based businesses

and small and medium enterprises with time-efficient, reliable import solutions.

The Kingdom's air cargo sector is rapidly expanding with volumes reaching 0.92 million tonnes in 2024. This is expected to nearly triple to 2.45 million tonnes by 2033, underlining strong demand for specialised logistics solutions. The B777 freighter is equipped to handle bulky, oversized, palletised, temperature-con-



**Richard Smith**  
COO, International &  
CEO, Airline, FedEx

trolled, and dangerous goods, supporting high-growth industries such as energy, healthcare, automotive, manufacturing, and mining.

"This new flight is a expansion of our global network, extending our connectivity through the Middle East and further increasing the resilience and flexibility of our worldwide operations," said Richard Smith, Chief Operating Officer (COO), International, and





**Awad Al-Sulami**  
Vice President, Economic  
Regulations and Cargo  
General Authority of Civil Aviation



**Kami Viswanathan**  
President  
FedEx Middle East,  
India Subcontinent and Africa

Chief Executive Officer (CEO),  
Airline, FedEx.

Awad Al-Sulami, Vice President, Economic Regulations and Cargo, General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), said, "FedEx investment in flight operations to the Kingdom reflects the commitment of global partners in helping to increase the competitiveness of our aviation sector and support the ambition of Saudi Vision 2030."

"This milestone emphasises our continued investment in accelerating economic growth and advancing the Kingdom's ambitions to become a leading logistics hub. The launch

of this flight, alongside our enhanced customs clearance and pickup & delivery capabilities, marks a pivotal step in deepening our long-term presence in KSA," said Kami Viswanathan, President, Middle East, India Subcontinent, and Africa, FedEx.

FedEx complements this physical network with digital tools that streamline customs clearance, improve supply chain visibility, and simplify cross-border trade processes.

The new flight forms part of FedEx's broader expansion strategy in the Kingdom, which includes infrastructure development with the upcoming King Salman International Airport regional hub, covering KSA, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar. The company has introduced FedEx Logistics in the Kingdom to provide comprehensive freight forwarding solutions, alongside talent development and technology deployment, reinforcing KSA's transformation into a global trade and logistics hub.



# Expanding cargo capacity by Saudia Cargo under lease pact

Saudia Cargo has strengthened its global logistics capabilities by adding an Airbus A330-300P2F through a wet lease pact with Dublin-headquartered ASL Aviation Holdings. The aircraft — MSN 1272 — arrived in Shannon in June following passenger-to-freighter conversion and now carries the Saudia Cargo livery.



CT Bureau

Under the wet lease agreement, the wide-body freighter will initially operate under ASL Airlines Ireland as EI-LKD in September 2025 before delivery to Saudia Cargo later in the year. A second A330-300P2F will also join the fleet in Q4 under the same arrangement, marking the return of the aircraft type to ASL Airlines Ireland's operations.

The ACMI's agreement provides Saudia Cargo with dedicated crews, maintenance, and insurance, thereby ensuring consistent operational support. The freighter can carry up to 62 tonnes of cargo across 26 main-deck pallets and 11 lower-deck positions, covering distances of up to 6,850 km.

"Expanding our capacity and global reach is an imperative for Saudia Cargo, ensuring uninterrupted supply chains for our customers. The integration of this A330-300P2F, in partnership with ASL Aviation Holdings, will support our network capabilities, enabling



**Dave Andrew**  
Chief Executive  
ASL Aviation Holdings

us to link markets with greater agility and efficiency. This pivotal addition directly supports our vision to solidify our position as a leading global air cargo carrier and solidifies the Kingdom's role as an international logistics hub," said Eng Loay Mashabi, CEO and Managing Director, Saudia Cargo.

"We are delighted to partner with Saudia Cargo to welcome an A330-300P2F to the ASL fleet. This partnership is a positive statement for ASL as we continue to strengthen and grow," Dave Andrew, Chief Executive, ASL Aviation Holdings.



**Eng Loay Mashabi**  
CEO and Managing Director  
Saudia Cargo

of around 50 destinations in Europe, North America, and Asia. The addition will complement the ASL's existing B737 and ATR72 freighters, expanding capacity for both express parcels and larger freight.

With this partnership, Saudia Cargo not only enhances its long-haul capabilities but also reinforces the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's strategic role as an international logistics hub under the Kingdom's Vision 2030 agenda.

*The ACMI's agreement provides Saudia Cargo with dedicated crews, maintenance, insurance, and consistent operational support*

ASL Airlines Ireland, part of ASL Aviation's global fleet of 150 aircraft, will deploy the freighter across a network

## AT A GLANCE

**Payload capacity**  
62 tonnes

**Main deck**  
26 pallets

**Lower deck**  
11 positions

**Range**  
6,850 km



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# Toll Group breaks ground on distribution centre at Dubai South

The distribution centre located in Logistics District highlights supply chain solutions in the MENA region. It would support Dubai's vision of a sustainable logistics hub. Designed with a capacity of 30,664 pallets, the centre would strengthen support to a plethora of services, including 3PL and inbound, among others.

 CT Bureau

**T**oll Group, which acquired a majority stake of CWT-SML Logistics, has broken ground on its new 25,000 sqm distribution centre at Dubai South. It underscores the company's commitment to expanding its regional presence and strengthening supply chain solutions across the MENA region.

The centre is designed with a capacity for 30,644 pallets. It will include a warehouse, mezzanine, and office space. It will also feature a general palletised cargo area with four separate chambers offering flexible configurations to meet customer requirements. The facility incorporates temperature-controlled chambers with VNA racking and is being built to achieve LEED Silver Certification reflecting Toll Group's focus on sustainability in process and materials.

Likely to be completed by August 2026, the hub will support a spectrum of



**Mohsen Ahmad**  
CEO, Logistics District  
Dubai South

logistics services, including 3PL, inbound and outbound stock handling, value-added services, and local and cross-border transportation.

"We are delighted with Toll Group's milestone, indicating the confidence that leading global players have in Dubai South's Logistics District. This facility will enhance the capacity and efficiency of the sector and contribute to Dubai's vision of being the world's most connected and sustainable logistics hub. We remain committed to enabling our

*The facility offers direct access to Al Maktoum airport cargo terminals and connectivity to Jebel Ali Port via a bonded logistics corridor*

partners with the infrastructure, connectivity and ecosystem needed to thrive in this competitive landscape."

Dubai South's Logistics District, where the facility is located, offers direct access to Al Maktoum International Airport cargo terminals, uninterrupted connectivity to Jebel Ali Port via a bonded logistics corridor and proximity to EJDubai — the region's dedicated e-commerce free zone.

This ecosystem provides the infrastructure and connectivity required for global logistics players to thrive. The

development represents a strategic move for Toll Group and CWT-SML Logistics. The Group will position the new hub as a cornerstone for supply chain innovation, sustainability, and efficiency in the Middle East.

## AT A GLANCE

**Facility**  
25,000 sqm at Dubai South

**Capacity**  
30,644 pallets

**Features**  
Temperature-controlled chambers, VNA racking, four cargo chambers

**Services**  
3PL, VAS, local and cross-border transport

**Likely to be completed**  
August 2026



# IntraMove AMRs for warehouse automation by Swisslog

Swisslog has launched IntraMove's AMRs to support transport solutions. The AMRs, which offer an increased payload capacity, provide products such as food, beverage, fashion, and general goods across industries. They steer independently using SLAM technology, says **Thomas Balzarek, AMR Solution Manager, Swisslog**.

CT Bureau

Swisslog has expanded its warehouse automation portfolio with the IntraMove series of autonomous mobile robots (AMRs), offering capacity up to 3,000 kg and AI-powered performance for adaptable and horizontal transport solutions.

Swisslog's IntraMove AMRs are designed to provide point-to-point transport



**Thomas Balzarek**  
AMR Solution Manager  
Swisslog

*The AMRs function as solutions for integrated horizontal transport systems providing maximum safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness*

transport needs. Payload options include the IntraMove AMR 600 (600 kg), IntraMove AMR 1500 (1,500 kg), and the heavy-duty IntraMove AMR 3000 (3,000 kg), allowing scalability for businesses of all sizes.

"Our customers look for horizontal transport solutions capable of handling heavier loads and adapting to dynamic and frequently changing conditions," said Thomas Balzarek, AMR Solution Manager, Swisslog.

The IntraMove AMRs function as solutions for integrated horizontal transport systems providing maximum safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. They join Swisslog's CarryPick order picking solution, which has a record of scalable, agile automation to optimise performance and shorten return on investment for customers. With experience in integrating AGVs, Swisslog's introduction of IntraMove AMRs represents a step forward in intelligent warehouse automation combining high payload capacity, AI-driven navigation, and adaptable transport solutions for modern logistics ops.



for pallets and goods across industries, including food, beverage, fashion, and general merchandise. The AMRs can adapt to dynamic warehouse environments enabling quick deployment, flexible operation, and easy adjustment of routes and delivery points to support business growth.

Linked to AI-based fleet management software via the VDA 5050 standard, the IntraMove AMRs can be integrated with warehouse control and

management systems such as Swisslog's SynQ software. The AMRs navigate independently using Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping (SLAM) technology, calculating efficient paths, avoiding obstacles, and traffic sans need for cables or guidance strips.

The robots feature fully integrated lifting devices for handling goods safely and securely and a range of top modules, including platforms and conveyors, to support various

## Highlights

- Payload cargo capacity up to 3,000 kg
- AI-powered and autonomous navigation
- Flexible transport routes and delivery points
- Integration with SynQ and WMS systems

## Innovation

- SLAM navigation avoids obstacles without cables or strips
- AI fleet management via VDA 5050 standard
- Fully integrated lifting devices for safe handling
- Scalable top modules for diverse transport needs

# Agility KSCP to align strategy with Kuwait Vision 2035

Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP's Board of Directors repositioned the firm's strategy to accelerate national infrastructure development in line with the Kuwait Vision 2035, with planned investments exceeding 100 million Kuwaiti Dinars through 2030, to focus on critical logistics and warehousing development.



CT Bureau

Agility KSCP is aligning capital, operations, and leadership toward Kuwait's economic priorities with a focus on critical logistics and warehousing development. The company also announced measures to promote Kuwaiti talent and initiate a rebranding.

Agility KSCP distributed in-kind dividends representing 20.09 per cent of its shares in ADX-listed Agility Global PLC to enhance shareholder value. This provided shareholders with a direct stake in Agility Global, while improving free float, share liquidity, and increasing visibility for potential index inclusion.

For the first half of 2025, net income from continuing operations was KD18 million, up 45.3 per cent from the last year with revenue at KD73.9 million and EBITDA at KD32.2 million. Q2 2025 net income stood at KD8.7 million, which went up by 196 per cent year-on-year, equivalent to 3.48 fils per share. Revenue



**Tarek Sultan**  
Vice Chairman  
Agility KSCP

reached KD36.1 million, while EBITDA rose 36 per cent to KD16.2 million, informed Tarek Sultan, Vice Chairman, Agility KSCP.

"Operating performance in the second quarter remained stable, and net income from continuing operations improved year-over-year. While the reported consolidated loss reflects a one-time, non-cash accounting adjustment under IFRS-5, it does not impact the fundamentals of the business. Our focus remains on positioning Agility KSCP for sustainable growth, with an

*Agility Logistics Parks is progressing with its S2 project — an integrated logistics and commercial hub to serve Sabah Al-Ahmad City*

emphasis on Kuwait-centric opportunities," Sultan said.

Agility Logistics Parks is progressing with its South Village (S2) project — an integrated logistics and commercial hub to serve Sabah Al-Ahmad City. Although deconsolidation had taken place in the third quarter of this year — Agility Global delivered strong Q2 results. Earnings reached US\$ 24 million, EBIT increased by 5 per cent to US\$ 97 million, EBITDA climbed 8 per cent to US\$ 181 million and revenue increased 8 per cent to US\$ 1.2 billion. Performance was driven by Menzies Aviation and Agility Logistics Parks.

With total assets of US\$ 12.7 billion and shareholder equity of US\$ 5.8 billion — Agility Global maintains a strong balance sheet as it continues to scale its global logistics and services portfolio.

## AT A GLANCE

### Q2 2025 results

Net income KD8.7 mn  
(+196% YoY), revenue  
KD36.1 mn

**Aligning with  
Kuwait Vision 2035**  
KD100 mn and investments  
planned through 2030

**Shareholder value**  
Distributed 20.09% in-kind  
dividends via Agility Global  
PLC shares

**Key project**  
Logistics parks advancing  
South Village hub in Sabah  
Al-Ahmad City



# EgyptAir Cargo embraces digital change with nGen ICMS rollout

EgyptAir Cargo has partnered with Cargo Flash Infotech to implement the nGen Integrated Cargo Management System (ICMS), marking a move to modernise operations and establish itself as a digitally advanced cargo operator in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region.

CT Bureau

EgyptAir Cargo has taken a significant step towards operational modernisation by adopting Cargo Flash Infotech's cloud-based nGen ICMS. The platform replaces legacy systems with an integrated digital ecosystem that automates booking, documentation, warehousing, and delivery processes. It introduces real-time tracking, proactive control, and streamlined communication across the cargo value chain.

"Digital transformation is at the core of our strategy," said Capt. Ehab El-Tahtawi, Chairman and Executive Officer, EgyptAir Cargo. "We are committed to building a future-ready cargo ecosystem powered by data, innovation, and global best practices. Our partnership with Cargo Flash is one of several steps we are taking to modernise operations and deliver smarter, more efficient solutions to our customers." The adoption of nGen

recorded a 10.2 per cent year-on-year increase in cargo tonne-kilometres in 2024, driven by trade with Asia and Europe. Africa is projected to account for 5 per cent of global air cargo volumes by 2030, up from 2 per cent in 2024, highlighting the need for digital systems to manage complex trade flows efficiently.

Cargo Flash's nGen platform enables advanced services such as predictive shipment



**Capt. Ehab El-Tahtawi**  
Chairman and CEO  
EgyptAir Cargo



**Jasraj S. Chug**  
Co-founder and Director  
Cargo Flash



rollout of nGen ICMS represents more than a systems upgrade; it marks EgyptAir Cargo's evolution into a technology-enabled logistics operator capable of delivering smarter, faster, and more reliable cargo solutions.

This transformation could serve as a blueprint for other carriers in the Middle East and Africa, demonstrating how digital integration can enhance competitiveness, operational efficiency, and customer satisfaction in a rapidly growing region.

*By modernising its ops, EgyptAir Cargo sets a benchmark for regional carriers aiming to compete with global hubs such as Dubai and Doha*

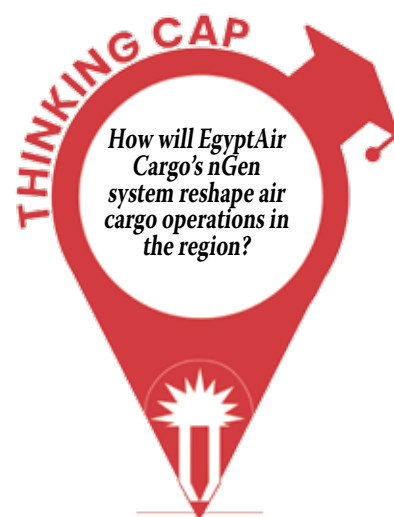
ICMS positions EgyptAir Cargo to meet growing regional demand and remain competitive in Africa's evolving air cargo market. According to IATA, African carriers

analytics, automated customs integration, and AI-driven demand forecasting. These capabilities improve reliability, enhance regulatory compliance, and reduce paperwork-intensive processes, providing a competitive edge for EgyptAir Cargo.

Jasraj S Chug, Co-founder and Director, Cargo Flash, framed the partnership as an alignment of vision and capabilities. "The platform will enable EgyptAir Cargo to scale efficiently in a competitive global landscape," he said. The digital transformation aligns

with Egypt's broader policy goals to establish Cairo as a regional logistics hub, supported by the airport infrastructure expansion and free trade zones. The move also requires EgyptAir Cargo to adopt global digital standards, such as IATA's One Record initiative, enabling standardised shipment records and facilitating global interline partnerships.

By modernising its operations, EgyptAir Cargo sets a benchmark for regional carriers aiming to compete with established global hubs such as Dubai and Doha. The



# 7X launches NXN to set new benchmark in UAE logistics

7X has launched the NXN conference, L Congress–Dubai 2025. The initiative aims to unify service providers, such as postal, parcel, and e-commerce logistics under a single national platform. The platform is designed around four interconnected pillars — ‘Send’, ‘Receive’, ‘Store’, and ‘Enable’.

CT Bureau

National Network of Logistics (NXN) integrates local and international service providers to offer seamless services for sending, receiving, and storing shipments. Built on a hybrid physical-digital infrastructure, the network caters to individuals, SMEs, and e-commerce businesses, providing same-day and next-day delivery, flexible pick-up options, etc.

The launch aligns with 7X’s vision to develop digital solutions that empower the busi-

ness community and reinforce the UAE’s role as a global logistics hub. It also supports govt initiatives such as ‘We the UAE 2031’ and ‘Zero Bureaucracy’, promoting digital transformation and universal service accessibility.

“Our goal is to create an open network transforming logistics from a fragmented and expensive system to a unified and global ecosystem. NXN helps reinforce the UAE’s leading position as a global logistics hub by making services easy and reliable,” Tariq Al Wahedi, CEO, 7X Group, said.



Tariq Al Wahedi  
Group CEO  
7X

“The platform is designed around four interconnected

pillars: The ‘Send’ pillar, which provides local and global shipping solutions through a network of postal and express delivery providers; the ‘Receive’ pillar, ensuring a flexible pick-up experience encompassing home delivery, smart lockers, returns management, and mailbox services; the ‘Store’ pillar, offering storage solutions through smart lockers, dark stores, and specialised fulfilment centres to support e-commerce; and the ‘Enable’ pillar, which puts SMEs at the core of NXN’s strategy,” said Abdulaziz Alhammadi, General Manager, NXN. 🇦🇪

## AI advancing your cargo business

### Anaplan Intelligence transforms data into actionable insights

Managing shipments, route planning, inventory, and forecasting in cargo logistics can be overwhelming. Anaplan Intelligence integrates AI-driven scenario planning and predictive insights into a unified platform, enabling logistics teams to optimise operations and make informed decisions in real-time.

### Plan and optimise cargo operations with AI

Anaplan connects multiple data sources, from freight schedules to customs compliance and warehouse inventories into a unified planning platform. Its AI engines provide predictive analytics, automated scenario modelling, and real-time recommendations that help logistics managers forecast demand, optimise routes, and allocate resources efficiently.



### Anaplan Intelligence a game changer for logistics?

- **Predictive cargo forecasting:** Anaplan utilises ML to analyse data and market trends, predicting demand, anticipating bottlenecks, and optimising inventory across cargo hubs.
- **Scenario-based planning:** Plan for multiple “what-if” scenarios, from route disruptions to sudden shipment spikes, and understand the impact of each decision before it happens.
- **Automated decision recommendations:** The AI

engine suggests optimal actions for scheduling, resource allocation, cross-team coordination, reducing manual analysis, and speeding up execution.

- **Integrated enterprise view:** Anaplan brings together finance, operations, and supply chain data, giving cargo managers a single source of truth for strategic decisions.
- **Enhanced collaboration and efficiency:** With role-based dashboards, agents and teams can collaborate, track progress, and adapt to

changes in real-time, thereby cutting delays and miscommunications.

- **Pro Tip:** For cargo operators juggling shipments, warehouse planning, and customs compliance, feed Anaplan real-time data on schedules, volumes, and deadlines. It will analyse trends, predict delays, and recommend actions to keep ops running smoothly.

### Drive smarter cargo operations with Anaplan Intelligence

From freight forecasting and route optimisation to inventory management and regulatory compliance, Anaplan transforms complex cargo data into actionable insights. Its predictive AI, scenario modelling, and integrated platform empower logistics teams across the Middle East to make faster, smarter, and more informed decisions. 🇦🇪



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2025

## Upcoming Events

## OCTOBER

- 01** Global Trade and Supply Chain Summit 2025  
Venue: Dubai, UAE
- 07** VertiExpo Dubai  
Venue: Dubai Festival City, UAE
- 08-09** FlyPharma Amsterdam 2025  
Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 08-10** Logistech İzmir Expo  
Venue: Fuar Izmir, Turkey
- 09-10** The Premier Ocean & Air Freight Summit  
Barcelona, Spain
- 13** IATA Fuel Efficiency Forum  
Venue: Xiamen, China
- 14-16** IATA World Safety & Operations Conference  
Xiamen, China
- 15-16** Logistics and Automation  
Venue: Madrid, Spain
- 21-22** IATA World Sustainability Symposium  
Hong Kong, China
- 21-23** Intermodal Europe  
Venue: Barcelona, Spain
- 28-31** CeMAT Asia  
Venue: Shanghai, China
- 29-31** Transport Logistic and Air Cargo Southeast Asia 2025  
Singapore

For more information  
contact: [talk@ddppl.com](mailto:talk@ddppl.com)

The dates shown on the Events calendar are subject to change. Please refer to EventTalk in  to track the changes in dates

# Abu Dhabi set to host industry leaders at ACF

TIACA has announced the Air Cargo Forum 2025, between 3 and 6 November at Yas Island Arena in Abu Dhabi. The event will bring together the global air cargo community for networking, insights, and industry discussions.



 CT Bureau

The air cargo industry is gearing up for one of its premier events of the year as the Air Cargo Forum (ACF) 2025 prepares to welcome global leaders, innovators, and stakeholders to Abu Dhabi. From digital breakthroughs to sustainable practices, the forum will focus on what is shaping the future of logistics.

“This year’s programme reflects the breadth and depth of the issues shaping our industry. From digital innovation to workforce development, ACF 2025 will bring the right people into the right conversations at the right time,” said Steven Polmans, Chair, TIACA. The agenda features high-profile speakers and sessions designed to address emerging opportunities, technological advancements, and operational best practices.

The Middle East continues to establish itself as a powerhouse in the air cargo market. Its location, world-class



Glyn Hughes  
Director-General  
TIACA


infrastructure, and forward-looking approach to logistics have made the region an important link between Asia, Europe, and Africa. Abu Dhabi has positioned itself as a key hub, providing a thriving ecosystem that balances efficiency, connectivity, and sustainability.

“Bringing the Forum to the Middle East offers a unique opportunity to connect global leaders with one of the fastest-growing air cargo ecosystems. We look forward to insightful discussions that will shape

the industry’s future,” Glyn Hughes, Director General, said, while speaking about ACF 2025.

The forum will offer attendees a blend of professional engagement and exclusive experiences. Signature events include conference sessions with limited seats for industry leaders, a golf tournament at Saadiyat Beach Golf Club, a welcome reception at Del Mar Beach Club, and the Connecting Cargo Reception at Ferrari World for global networking.

Exhibition and sponsorship opportunities are also open for companies looking to showcase their innovations, services, and expertise to a global audience.

With premium positions in high-traffic areas, early commitment ensures maximum visibility during the forum, offering brands the chance to strengthen their presence in one of the world’s fastest-growing cargo regions. 



## Asiana Airlines appoints ECS Group as GSSA for belly cargo operations

ECS Group, the world's leading GSSA, has been appointed by Asiana Airlines as its exclusive global partner to manage the carrier's global belly cargo ops. The pact covers 33 locations across Europe, the Americas, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia. Following the sale of its freighter division, Asiana Airlines has shifted to a fully belly-based cargo model, with aircraft such as A350-900 offering up to 18 tonnes capacity. The airline is focusing on high-demand shipments, including semiconductors,



perishables, and express cargo. "Leveraging ECS Group's global network, we are committed to supporting the airlines with

reliable, efficient, and tailored cargo solutions worldwide," said Jean Ceccaldi, CEO, ECS Group.

## Icelandair Cargo enters Türkiye, launches 4 weekly flights between Istanbul and Keflavik



Icelandair Cargo announced its entry into the Turkish market through an alliance with Globe Air Cargo Türkiye — a subsidiary of ECS Group. "This partnership is an expression of our vision: Connecting the global ambitions of our airline partners to strong local expertise," said Jean Ceccaldi, CEO, ECS Group. "We are proud to represent Icelandair Cargo in this exciting launch," added Ersun Guven, MD, Globe Air Cargo Türkiye. Icelandair launched four weekly flights between Istanbul and Keflavik using Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The route provides efficient links to the US and Europe, with a focus on textiles, automotive parts, and machinery sectors.

## Korean Air partners with Swissport on JFK airport cargo operations

Korean Air Cargo has signed a five-year contract with Swissport to manage operations at its long-standing Cargo Building 9 at New York's JFK International Airport. The 232,500 sqft facility, which includes many offices, will undergo modernisation with investments in automation, eco-tech infrastructure, and temperature-controlled storage. Jaedong, EVP



and Head, Cargo Business Division, Korean Air, said, "Air cargo ground quality comes along with operational excellence beyond efficiency." These upgrades are likely to raise annual throughput capacity from 200,000 to 295,500 tonnes. Operations will begin with around 80 staff, climb to 400 employees as the site reaches full cargo capacity.

## B&H Worldwide adds warehouse at Heathrow Airport

B&H Worldwide has strengthened its UK presence with the addition of a new 6,000 sqft office and warehouse unit at its existing Heathrow Airport, said Alan Barlow, Head of Operations, UK. The expansion reflects the firm's commitment



to delivering, secure and efficient logistics solutions for the aviation industry. The site is equipped with advanced security measures, Civil Aviation Authority compliant standards, and features temperature and humidity control for sensitive aviation components.

## Finnair & CN Logistics to reduce emissions with SAF

Finnair Cargo and CN Logistics International Holdings have decided to reduce emissions in air freight by using SAF. CN Logistics co-funded



SAF for Finnair, targeting lower Scope III GHG emissions for shipments. "This is a vital step in our efforts to increase the use of SAF," said Gabriela Hiitola, SVP, Finnair Cargo. The move aligns with Finnair's target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> intensity per RTK by 34.5% by 2033 and its net-zero goal by 2050. 🌱

# Movements



## ALSI GLOBAL LLC UAE

Bharat Patel has been appointed as the Country Manager, UAE, at ALSI Global LLC. With 25 years of experience in the UAE, including senior roles at Al Tayer, DHL and Bolloré, he will focus on driving operational excellence, revenue generation, and market expansion of the company.



## ALSI GLOBAL LLC UAE

S. Manoj Karthik has joined as Manager, Business Development and Cargo Ops, UAE at ALSI Global LLC. In his new role, he will drive growth, enhance efficiency, and strengthen the firm's market presence. With 30 years of experience, he has worked with leading GSAs in India and the UAE.



## DNATA UAE

Alex Doisneau has been appointed Regional Chief Executive Officer for Airport Operations, covering Asia Pacific, and Middle East & Africa regions, at dnata. In her new role, she will relocate to Dubai. She will oversee ground handling and cargo operations across multiple countries. She joined dnata in 2012.



## DNATA United Kingdom

James Butler has been appointed Managing Director of dnata Airport Operations, UK, overseeing operations across six airports. In his new role, he will lead dnata's ground handling and cargo business spanning six airports across the UK. Butler joined dnata in 2018 and previously served as Finance Director.



## DHL SUPPLY CHAIN Middle East & Africa

Orkun Saruhanoglu has been appointed CEO of DHL Supply Chain Middle East & Africa. In his new role, he will drive the company's regional growth as DHL invests over €500 million across the Gulf and Africa to expand contract logistics, e-commerce fulfilment, and supply chain resilience.



## WESTJET Canada

Sabir Ebrahim has joined as Head, Cargo Operations, WestJet. He has focused on operational excellence, efficiency gains, and strengthening collaborations. With experience in cargo pricing and ops, he is tasked with ensuring smooth and compliant cargo ops, while identifying opportunities to optimise processes.



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