

Middle East's leading cargo monthly

March 2024

CARGO talk

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FEMALE FRONTIER: **HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY TO ALTER CARGO INDUSTRY**



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38 300 million transactions

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(Left) His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, with (Second left) Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, at the inauguration of warehousing facility 'Bharat Mart', in Dubai on Wednesday. Also seen are (Third from left) Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai and (Right) Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Chairman and CEO, DP World Group.

New trade gateway for India to come up in Dubai

Spanning an area of 2.7 million sq. mts., Bharat Mart is poised to become mega distribution hub for Indian businesses to trade in the UAE and re-export to regional and global markets. It will house 1,500 showrooms.

 CT Bureau

His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, and Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India have laid the foundation stone for Bharat Mart at a glittering ceremony, during the World Governments' Summit 2024.

DP World recently unveiled plans for Bharat Mart, a Dubai trade marketplace set to open in 2026 that will offer a world-class trading platform for Indian manufacturers as well as exporters to access international markets.

His Royal Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council

of Dubai, participated in the glittering ceremony. S Jaishankar, Foreign Minister of India; Ajit Doval KC, National Security Advisor of India; Vinay Kwatra, Foreign Secretary, Indian Ministry of External Affairs; Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, DP World, also took part.



our world-class infrastructure, logistics capabilities and business-friendly ecosystem in Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza), Bharat Mart will be the ideal gateway for Indian goods to reach the UAE and other high-growth markets in the Middle East, Europe and Africa,” Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem said.

With its proximity to the Jebel Ali Port and Free Zone ecosystem, Bharat Mart is expected to play a significant role in unlocking new possibilities for the Indian exporters and boost trade between



celerated by a post-pandemic economic surge. This has created a dynamic trade landscape, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering continued growth. The trading platform is designed to complement Jafza's existing offerings, providing

The trading platform would complement Jafza's offerings, providing Indian SMEs with a seamless platform to export cargo

the two nations by leveraging Dubai's strength as an important hub for value addition, trading, and logistics. "India is among the UAE's top five trade partners, a relationship that has been significantly ac-

celerated by a post-pandemic economic surge. This has created a dynamic trade landscape, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering continued growth. The trading platform is designed to complement Jafza's existing offerings, providing

CEO and Managing Director, DP World GCC, said.

Spanning 2.7 million square feet, with the first phase encompassing 1.3 million square feet, Bharat Mart is poised to become a mega distribution hub for Indian businesses to trade domestically in the UAE and re-export to regional and global markets. The market will be situated in the Free Zone and will be part of a wider ecosystem of trade that DP World is developing through the Dubai Traders Market, a hybrid retail and wholesale marketplace that will host the traders from across the world.

Bharat Mart plans to house as many as 1,500 showrooms catering to retail and wholesale customers, and 700,000 square feet of Grade A warehousing space, providing tenants with combined free zone and onshore benefits. The facility will also offer light industrial units, office spaces and meeting facilities. Bharat Mart will be located 11 km from Jebel Ali Port, the largest seaport in the Mid-

dle East, and 15 km from Al Maktoum International Airport, providing seamless multimodal logistics solutions for Indian exporters. Through the Jebel Ali ecosystem, traders will have direct connectivity to 150 maritime destinations and air links to 300 cities.

Dubai plays a significant role in the trade ties between the UAE and India, with 87 per cent or US\$44.9 billion of the total non-oil trade value of US\$51.4 billion flowing through the Emirate in 2022. Close to 1,500 Indian businesses have made Jafza their home in the UAE, trading more than five million metric tonnes of cargo valued at US\$8.6 billion.

FACTFILE

- Bharat Mart will be located near Jebel Ali Port and 15 km from Al Maktoum Airport.
- The market, located in Jafza, will be part of a trade ecosystem DP World is developing.



Female frontier: harnessing technology to alter cargo industry



Women in air cargo and logistics industry are found in office jobs such as in controlling, purchasing or human resources. But thanks to the steady growth and integration of high-quality logistics services into the value chain of industry and trade, the sector is offering women a wide range of career opportunities.

 Abigail Mathias

The logistics industry has seen tremendous transformation in recent years. One of the most notable changes has been the increasing importance of women in pivotal roles within the field. Women have made significant contribution to logistics, leading to valuable and diverse perspectives shaping successful teams in the industry.

According to Gartner's 2021 'Women in Supply Chains Survey', women presently comprise an average of 41 per cent of the supply chain workforce. This represents a significant shift, and a growing acknowledgment of the

Embracing diversity and gender balance is not just a trend, it is a must for logistics industry to thrive

critical role women play in the logistics industry. Even more promising is the fact that 73 per cent of the supply chain organizations surveyed have set goals related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, highlighting the industry's commitment to attracting, developing, retaining, and advancing women.

Women leaders are breaking barriers and demonstrating the value of diverse perspectives in an industry that demands agility and innovation. Their influence is vital for the continued success of the logistics sector. Embracing diversity and gender balance is not just a trend, it is necessary for the logistics industry to thrive in an ever-evolving world. **CARGO** talk celebrates these women and many like them who are making a difference in the logistics landscape.



Logistics industry needs more women in workforce

“ Having been in the logistics industry for 20 years, it is remarkable to see the roles that women have taken up in this field. The UAE is in the forefront when it comes to women empowerment. The past 50 years witnessed more women in the workforce in logistics industry. The logistics industry needs women in leadership positions where they can be strong role models and inspire the next generation. Although the logistics industry is a growing one, there are not many women in the logistics sector. It is imperative more women join the sector as they are good at multitasking. So, my advice to them is to work hard and be consistent. From the perspective of employers, they are always looking for qualified trainees. They always count on us to get the work done.”



Nadia Abdul Aziz
President
NAFL

As decision-makers, women transforming cargo industry

“ Women in logistics industry have made a mark by breaking gender barriers and excelling in leadership roles. They contribute diverse perspectives, strategic insights, and communication skills, enhancing collaboration and innovation. In 2022, Rosalyn Wilson of Rosalyn Wilson LLC, was the successful businesswomen in the logistic field. Women have pioneered advancements in supply chain management, operations, and technology. Initiatives promoting gender diversity have empowered them to navigate male-dominated sectors. Their influence extends to advocating sustainable practices and shaping the industry’s future. As decision-makers and in other roles, women are driving change thereby contributing to the efficiency of the logistics and cargo industry.”



Kadeeja Afreen
Logistics Coordinator,
Rajab Express

Women’s contribution drives growth, sustainability

“ Technology has revolutionized air cargo, enhancing efficiency and reliability. Automation, real-time tracking, and data analytics streamline operations, ensuring accurate scheduling and minimizing delays. IoT devices provide visibility into cargo conditions, reducing risks and improving overall safety. These tech advancements expedite processes and optimize resource utilization, making the air cargo industry more responsive. Women have made a distinctive impact in the logistics industry by breaking traditional gender norms. They excel in leadership, operations, and innovation, bringing diverse perspectives to the table. Their contributions foster an inclusive and dynamic industry, driving positive change and ensuring sustainable growth.”



Berna Akyildiz
President, The Chartered
Institute of Logistics and
Transport, Turkiye



Impact is constrained due to limited opportunities

“ Within the air cargo and logistics industry, women are more often than not stifled by the silent presence of the systemic barriers, rendering their potential was obscured and aspirations muted. Although quite some logistics companies do embrace women leaders and employees, on the whole, the impact of women remains quite constrained due to limited scope and opportunities. The logistics industry is built on the concept of the male dominated sectors and manual labour, despite having shifted to a more cerebral approach in logistics operations, the air cargo and logistics industry remains on the backbone of a patriarchal ethos. Although women contribute significantly to the performance of logistics industry, but realizing their full potential requires dismantling certain barriers, fostering inclusivity, and creating enough space for a logistics landscape where every talent is likely to flourish.”



Svetlana Chatterjee
Director S CUBE Trans
Continental Group



Breaking barriers in male dominated logistics sector

“ Women in air cargo and logistics industry are making broad and meaningful impact in the sector, leading by example to encourage participation breaking barriers in what has historically and predominantly been a male dominated industry. I am proud to say many of these are my colleagues holding corporate and frontline operational roles among others. The Board of Directors of the SATS Limited has as many as five women out of 12 as Board Members. This goes to show that our company is women-oriented. Women currently make up 30 per cent of our management team. In an international workforce, diversity and inclusion play a significant role than before in promoting talent and engagement, and ultimately boost collaboration and drive better business outcomes.



Emma Deane
Regional Vice President
Business Development
AMEA, WFS

Efforts being made to lure more women into logistics

“ With a diverse workforce we ensure we will have different points of view and ideas coming in. Therefore, an effort to attract more women, and different demographics in general, into the logistics industry should continue to pay off in the form of new and better ideas. Technology makes achieving efficient planning and transparency between different stakeholders in the air cargo industry. For example, digitalisation plays a vital role in providing real-time information throughout the movement of the shipment. New technologies allow our members to fulfil those requirements better and more efficiently every time. Cargo iQ’s tools and methodologies deliver a system of shipment planning and performance monitoring for air cargo based on common business processes.”



Laura Rodríguez
Manager
Implementation &
Quality Assurance,
Cargo iQ

Women driving change in work environments

“ Women have brought fresh perspectives, innovation, and leadership to the logistics industry, challenging traditional guidelines and driving positive change. Our mark is evident in the way we prioritize sustainability and employee well-being among others. Despite still being underrepresented, we—the women leaders—in the logistics industry are known for fostering inclusive work environments that more often than not encourage collaboration and creativity, leading to much more resilient and adaptable businesses. By breaking barriers and taking on leadership roles head-on, we have also inspired a more diverse women-centric workforce, contributing to the logistics industry’s growth and innovation. Of late, our influence is shaping a more dynamic, equitable, and forward thinking industry.”



Kaoutar Makrache
Co-Founder & CEO
Win Sustainably



Women enhancing performance of logistics

“ Women have been stepping into leadership positions within the logistics industry. Their leadership often emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and strategic thinking. The involvement of women in logistics is enhancing the industry’s performance and driving it towards an inclusive and sustainable future. Their diverse perspectives and innovative approaches are essential for addressing the complex challenges of modern supply chains. Forty per cent of our employees are female. The leadership at Etihad Airways is building an inclusive and equal organisation. For example, in 2020 Etihad Airways joined IATA’s ‘25 by 2025’ pledge and increased its female workforce by 25 per cent. We were the first airline in the UAE to do so.”



Jacqueline Han Lin Ni
Area Manager
Etihad Cargo
International Airport

Bringing their skills to the table in logistics industry

“ Majority of women logistics professionals work in offices doing human resources, management, or sales. Every year, the proportion of women working in supply chain management continues to rise. However, the logistics industry is currently offering a variety of options for women because of the consistent and increasing demand for logistics services and its integration into the international commerce value chain. Women are also entering technical positions such as truck drivers, warehouse managers, forklift operators and shift supervisors among others. This goes to show that women are bringing their own perspectives and skills to the table, which can lead to better problem-solving and decision-making in the logistics industry.”



Yamrot Nigussie
Cargo Manager, Gulf
Ethiopian Airlines Cargo

Contributing to safety in air and road transportation

“ I truly believe, women have come a long way in the journey and have made significant contributions in the traditionally male dominated air cargo and logistics industry, challenging stereotypes and driving innovation. From managing supply chains to piloting cargo planes, their contributions are invaluable. Of late, women have been demonstrating leadership, safety, and efficiency quality. Women professionals continue to contribute to sustainability efforts, advocating for eco-friendly practices in air and road transportation and packaging. Through their dedication and expertise, women are being seen as enablers to reshape the landscape of the air cargo and logistics industry thereby paving the way for a more inclusive and dynamic industry.”



Minal Khilnani
Manager Supply Chain &
Logistics, Dubai Airports

Women making rapid strides, contributing to cargo sector

“ The air cargo industry has traditionally been male dominated, but women have been making rapid strides and contributing to the sector with diverse perspectives and collaborative approaches. Women have been breaking down stereotypes and inspiring others to pursue careers in air cargo, logistics and transportation. Technology has enabled the use of digital platforms, automation and AI to streamline the processes and operations of air cargo. Technology has improved the communication and coordination among the various stakeholders, including women. Women and technology are key enablers for growth and development of the industry. They have much to offer to the sector in terms of innovation, efficiency, and sustainability.”



Janet Wallace
MD, Cargo Operations
& Transformations
Air Canada

WAL for promoting gender balance at the workplace

“ A movement of transformation was launched on International Women’s Day 2021 and WAL seeks to mobilize the industry and drive a concerted action towards gender equality. Its objectives include promoting gender balance at the workplace, contributing to defining an industry action plan to address gender diversity, inclusion, encouraging and supporting industry transition by identifying various targets and timeframes, and delivering solutions to reach gender-focused goals. After driving a series of projects, including a mentorship scheme and creation of a database of women speakers, the association is seeking sponsorship to fund its next mentorship scheme, to provide benchmarking and statistics about gender balance in the industry.”



Celine Hourcade
President
WAL

Widening talent pool by luring them into logistics

“ Women in logistics industry have brought about positive changes, such as promoting diversity, and driving innovation. Initiatives such as Women’s International Shipping & Trading Association and All Aboard Alliance have played a vital role in empowering women in traditionally male-dominated field. By encouraging women to pursue lucrative careers in logistics, these initiatives have expanded the overall talent pool, bringing in fresh ideas, skills, and perspectives. Female representation in roles dominated by men, such as logistics management and freight operations, helps ensure expertise impacting overall performance. At the beginning of my career, I was the only woman at most of my meetings. In the past decade, this has changed drastically.” 🌟



Patrizia Kern
Chief Insurance Officer
Breeze





Airport infrastructure propels growth in air cargo sector

With its geographic location and dynamic economies, the Middle East is emerging as an international powerhouse in the air cargo world. The importance of air cargo across the Middle East cannot be overstated, as it serves as a linchpin for economic development, global trade, and connectivity in the region.

 Abigail Mathias

Nestled between Asia, Europe, and Africa, the Middle East, The Middle East occupies a pivotal position on the world map. This geographical advantage has transformed the region into a global trade and logistics hub. The Middle East's well-positioned airports—Dubai International Airport, Hamad International Airport

in Doha, and King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah—have become critical nodes in the international supply chain, facilitating the movement of goods across various continents.

Within a short time, different industries such as manufacturing, technology, pharmaceuticals, and e-commerce among others have thrived in the region, relying on efficient

air cargo services for the timely transport of goods. Air cargo is the lifeblood of the Middle Eastern businesses looking to connect with international markets. It enables companies to import raw materials and export finished products swiftly, efficiently, and reliably.

With the growth of globalization, Middle Eastern businesses can compete on a larger scale, offering products and ser-

vices to a global audience. The rise of e-commerce has accelerated the demand for fast and reliable shipping services. Air cargo is a vital component of the e-commerce supply chain, allowing consumers access a vast array of products from around the world. Whether it is the latest electronics, fashion items, or perishable goods, air freight ensures that these items reach customers promptly.



Investing in electrifying our ground handling fleet

“In recent years, we have invested in advanced infrastructure and technologies to consistently deliver world-class services at Dubai airports. Our most recent milestones include the successful launch of One Cargo, our cutting-edge cargo management system, which automates key business and operational functions with an integrated, cloud-based platform. We have also integrated drones into our operations, digitizing warehouse inventory processes with outstanding accuracy. Besides innovation, sustainability has also been accorded top priority. We continue to invest in the electrification of our ground handling fleet and take various initiatives in a bid to reduce waste and recycle materials across our air cargo operations.”



Guillaume Crozier
Senior VP, UAE Cargo & Global Cargo Strategy, dnata

Middle East airports are focusing on greener airports

“The region has been a trading hub over centuries. Since the 1980s, some countries in the Middle East have had the vision of developing them into competitive connecting points to the East and the West in terms of maritime and aviation. With development of tourism in the region, aviation, airports and cargo hub expansion was inevitable. The airports have invested heavily in technology and infrastructure to be competitive domestically and globally. The Middle Eastern airports including its carriers are focusing on greener operations. Supplying SAF to aircraft is one of the key initiatives that will lower the carbon footprint. e-apron is another initiative to feature services and ground handling equipment to facilitate the airports reach the sustainability goals.”



Chaminda Perera
Head, Cargo
Srilankan Airlines

New airports reducing environmental impact

“Over the past decade, infra of the Middle East airports has witnessed a revolution, marked by expansions and technological advancements to meet the industry’s growing demands. New terminals and advanced cargo handling facilities have been key features of this development. Dubai and Doha airports are improving their infrastructure and boosting freight capacity, while the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has implemented reforms and a plan for more investment to enhance competitiveness in the industry. Of late, new airports are focusing on sustainability by adopting efficient systems, eco-friendly waste management, and sustainable designs to minimize environmental impact and shape a greener future.”



Mohammed Bilal Saleem
Manager, Operations & Documentation, Blue Bell Shipping



Regional expansion possible due to developments in KSA

“ In the past decade we have seen significant volume growth as some major Middle Eastern airports have become transit hubs connecting Asia with Europe, Africa. But that volume growth has been witnessed in special cargo—live animals, perishables, dangerous goods, and e-commerce. Each special cargo requires special handling, and this is where airport infra makes the difference. Istanbul, Dubai and Doha have invested in world-class infra enabling. And now with the exciting developments planned for Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we can expect to see regional expansion. With the industry mapping out a path to net zero by 2050, every step forward is heading in the right direction.”



Glyn Hughes
Director General
TIACA



Airports must invest heavily to cater to rise in cargo traffic

“ The Middle Eastern aviation industry in general and the airports in specific, have benefited from the region’s strategic location—at the crossroads of major economies in Asia, Africa and Europe. The region grew enormously in the past two decades. This is the result of right investments led by strong governmental focus. Starting by acting as large airport hubs for both cargo and passengers, they gradually become inbound destinations over passage of time. With 110 airports, this is among the fastest growing region in the world, accounting for 170 million of the global traffic. The Middle Eastern airports will need to invest US\$151 billion in capacity expansion as the global cargo demand is expected to increase two-fold in 2040.”



Turhan Özen
VP, Chartered Institute of
Logistics and Transport,
Türkiye



Abu Dhabi airport renamed Zayed International Airport

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Advisor of Special Affairs at the Presidential Court and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Airports’ Board of Directors, attended a glittering ceremony to rename Abu Dhabi International Airport as Zayed International Airport, in honour of the UAE’s Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Paying tribute to Sheikh Zayed’s remarkable legacy and history of accomplishments in introducing the UAE to the world, the new brand encompasses the richness of Emirati culture and Arabian heritage. Designed to provide an innovative and seamless airport experience, the renamed airport meets the highest standards of quality and traveller expectations.



His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan
Advisor of Special Affairs at the
Presidential Court and Chairman,
Abu Dhabi Airports’ Board
of Directors

“We are proud to rename Abu Dhabi’s largest airport in honour of the founding father of the UAE. The unsurpassed achievements of the His Royal Highness late Sheikh Zayed in connection with the UAE and na-

tions around the world have inspired our commitment to ensure that Abu Dhabi strengthens its position as a world-leading hub for travel, trade, and commerce,” His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan said.

“I would like to thank His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed for entrusting us with carrying forward the name of the founding father of the UAE, helping to commemorate his unforgettable legacy that impacts us to this day, and will continue to inspire future generations. Zayed International Airport ushers in a new era for Abu Dhabi’s aviation sector. The airport delivers exceptional connectivity, innovation and sustainability for an elevated guest experience. 🇦🇪”

Global cargo demand surges by 10.8% in December 2023

Middle Eastern carriers reported an increase in demand of 1.6% for international demand in 2023 compared to 2022 and an increase in capacity of 13.5%. Global capacity was 13.6% above 2022 levels (+14.1% for global operations). This was the strongest annual growth performance, says **Willie Walsh, DG, IATA**.

 CT Bureau

Air cargo demand rebounded in 2023 with a particularly strong Q4 performance despite economic uncertainties. Full-year demand reached a level just slightly below 2022 and 2019, according to the data of international freight markets released by IATA.

Global full-year demand in 2023, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), was down 1.9 per cent compared to 2022 (-2.2% for international operations). Compared to 2019, it was down 3.6 per cent (-3.8 for international operations). Air cargo capacity in 2023, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), was 11.3 per cent above 2022 (+9.6% for international operations). Compared to 2019 (pre-COVID) levels, the capacity was up 2.5



Willie Walsh
Director General
IATA

per cent (0.0% for international operations).

Middle Eastern carriers reported an increase in demand of 1.6 per cent for global and international demand in 2023 compared to 2022 and an increase in capacity of 13.5 per cent (+13.6% for international operations). In December, the regional airlines posted an

18.3 per cent increase in demand for both domestic and international operations compared to 2022. Capacity increased 17.7 per cent (+17.8% for international operations) during the same period.

December 2023 witnessed a strong performance—global demand was 10.8 per cent above 2022 levels (+11.5% for international operations). This was the strongest annual growth performance over the past two years. Global capacity was 13.6 per cent above 2022 levels (+14.1% for international operations).

ON THE UPWARD TREND

Global cross-border trade recorded growth for the third consecutive month in October, reversing its previous downward trend. December inflation in both the USA and the European Union, as

measured by the corresponding Consumer Price Indices (CPI), stayed below 3.5 per

“The strong recovery in Q4 of last 2023 is a sign that the global air cargo markets are stabilizing.”

cent year over year. China’s CPI, however, indicated deflation for the third consecutive month, raising concerns of an economic slowdown.



Air cargo market in detail - December 2023

	World share 1	December 2023 (% year-on-year)			December 2023 (% ch vs the same month in 2019)			
		CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-pt)	CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-pt)	CLF
TOTAL MARKET	100.0%	10.8%	13.6%	-1.2%	2.3%	5.7%	-1.5%	45.9%
Africa	2.0%	-1.2%	7.4%	-3.6%	-3.4%	-12.2%	3.7%	41.0%
Asia Pacific	32.4%	18.5%	31.1%	-5.1%	0.6%	11.0%	-5.0%	47.9%
Europe	21.8%	8.6%	7.4%	0.6%	-7.3%	-8.6%	0.8%	56.2%
Latin America	2.7%	6.4%	3.5%	0.9%	3.9%	1.8%	0.6%	31.6%
Middle East	13.0%	18.3%	17.7%	0.2%	4.9%	10.2%	-2.3%	45.5%
North America	28.1%	2.0%	2.4%	-0.2%	12.8%	9.7%	1.1%	40.3%
International	86.9%	11.5%	14.1%	-1.2%	2.5%	6.3%	-1.9%	51.2%
Africa	2.0%	-1.4%	6.8%	-3.5%	-2.8%	-11.9%	3.9%	42.1%
Asia Pacific	29.7%	15.4%	22.9%	-3.5%	2.0%	11.1%	-4.8%	54.1%
Europe	21.5%	8.7%	7.5%	0.6%	-7.8%	-9.3%	0.9%	57.8%
Latin America	2.3%	6.3%	4.2%	0.7%	5.8%	11.3%	-1.9%	35.8%
Middle East	13.0%	18.3%	17.8%	0.2%	4.9%	10.3%	-2.4%	45.8%
North America	18.4%	5.9%	8.5%	-1.2%	17.0%	16.6%	0.2%	48.4%

Note 1: % of industry CTKs in 2022

Note 2: the total industry and regional growth rates are based on a constant sample of airlines combining reported data and estimates for missing observations. Airline traffic is allocated according to the region in which the carrier is registered; it should not be considered as regional traffic. Historical statistics are subject to revision.

Both the manufacturing output and new export order Purchasing Managers Indexes (PMIs)—two leading indicators of global air cargo demand—continued to hover below the 50-mark in December, usual markers for contraction.

“Despite political and economic challenges, 2023 saw global air cargo markets regain ground lost in the previous year (2022) after 2021. Although full year demand was shy of pre-COVID levels by 3.6 per cent, the strengthening in the last quarter is a sign that markets are stabilizing towards more normal demand patterns. This puts the industry on solid ground for success this year. But with continued, and in some cases intensifying, instability in geopolitics and economic forces, little should be taken for granted in the months ahead,” Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA, said.

RED SEA DISRUPTIONS

In November and December, air cargo experienced a modest rise in demand and yields due to disruptions in the Red Sea. The following was observed when comparing data for the week commencing 4

Air cargo market in detail - 2023

	World share 1	Year-on-year %			Year-on-year % vs 2019			
		CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-pt)	CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-pt)	CLF (level)
TOTAL MARKET	100.0%	-1.9%	11.3%	-5.9%	-3.6%	2.5%	-2.7%	44.0%
Africa	2.0%	-1.8%	5.6%	-3.3%	6.7%	-10.7%	7.1%	43.3%
Asia Pacific	32.4%	0.9%	28.5%	-12.5%	-6.9%	6.7%	-6.7%	45.7%
Europe	21.8%	-3.9%	4.5%	-4.5%	-12.6%	-12.9%	0.2%	52.0%
Latin America	2.7%	2.0%	13.2%	-3.7%	-1.7%	1.8%	-1.2%	33.9%
Middle East	13.0%	1.6%	13.5%	-5.1%	-0.1%	6.4%	-2.8%	43.8%
North America	28.1%	-5.7%	0.3%	-2.5%	7.1%	8.7%	-0.6%	39.0%
International	86.9%	-2.2%	9.6%	-6.0%	-3.8%	0.0%	0.8%	49.9%
Africa	2.0%	-2.0%	5.0%	-3.2%	7.7%	-10.0%	0.5%	44.3%
Asia Pacific	29.7%	-1.4%	16.6%	-9.9%	-5.3%	2.4%	2.2%	54.5%
Europe	21.5%	-4.1%	4.5%	-4.9%	-13.1%	-13.8%	-1.8%	54.1%
Latin America	2.3%	1.9%	16.9%	-5.7%	0.2%	11.7%	1.9%	38.7%
Middle East	13.0%	1.6%	13.6%	-5.2%	-0.1%	6.7%	3.8%	44.1%
North America	18.4%	-4.3%	2.7%	-3.4%	7.8%	8.1%	0.6%	46.5%

Note 1: % of industry CTKs in 2022
 Note 2: The total industry and regional growth rates are based on a constant sample of airlines combining reported data and estimates for missing observations. Airline traffic is allocated according to the region in which the carrier is registered; it should not be considered as regional traffic.

November 2023 and the week ending 9 December 2023:

- A 1 per cent increase in international air cargo demand coupled with a 5 per cent increase in cargo yields in the Asia-Pacific region, cargo demand grew by 2 per cent and yields by 6%
- a 1 per cent increase in demand between China and the rest of the world and an 11 per cent increase in cargo yields

Europe’s demand remained steady, but cargo yields increased by 3 per cent in the Middle East, while demand was constant with a 4 per cent rise in yields

Data for the last half of December showed a normalization of demand and yields. “The recent disruption of maritime routes in the Red Sea has seen some shippers shift to air

cargo. The increased demand saw an increase in air cargo yields. A similar spike is expected in January as disruptions have intensified. While not all cargo is suitable for air transport, it is a significant option for some of the most urgent shipments in extraordinary circumstances. And that is critical to the continuity of the international economy, said Walsh. 🌍





Air cargo volumes recover over Red Sea bedlam: **Xeneta**

Red Sea conflict and Lunar New Year combine to offer some air cargo market some respite. Overall, the year over year growth of global air cargo market supply slowed down in January as much of the missing capacity was restored last year, says **Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer, Xeneta**.

 CT Bureau

Global air cargo volumes rose by a surprising but welcome 10 per cent year over year in January as shippers' concerns over hostilities in the Red Sea and an early Lunar New Year more than compensated for an anticipated post-Christmas drop in e-commerce traffic, according to the latest weekly market analysis by Xeneta.

With plenty of available air cargo capacity in what is traditionally a quieter month for demand, however, fuller cargo holds are yet to translate into higher rates. Globally, general air cargo spot rates in January declined by 12 per cent month-on-month to an average US\$2.27 per kg, con-



Niall van de Wouw
Chief Airfreight Officer
Xeneta

sistent with the trend of the global dynamic load factor, which dropped three percentage points to 56 per cent versus December.

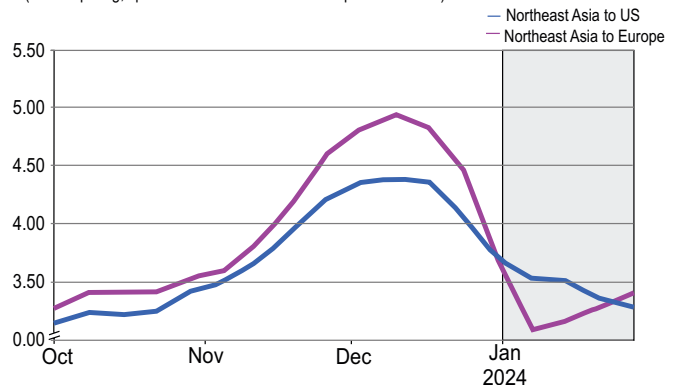
Xeneta's dynamic load factor analysis measures air cargo

capacity utilization by considering both cargo volume and weight perspectives of cargo

flown and capacity available. Overall, the YOY growth of global cargo market supply

Is the Red Sea crisis impacting the air freight market from Asia to Europe?

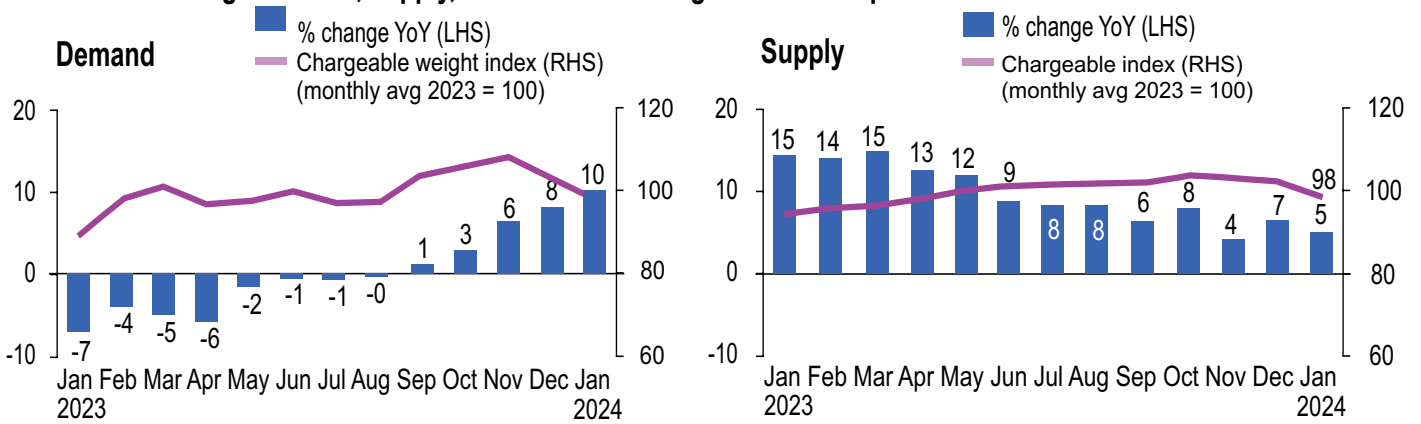
Weekly airline sell general cargo spot rates on top corridors, ending 28 Jan 2024
(In USD per kg, spot rates refer to rates valid for up to one month)



Note: Northeast Asia refers to mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.
Source: Xeneta

A positive start of the year from a demand perspective

Global air cargo demand, supply, load factor and freight rate developments



Source: Xeneta

“We saw a strong January from a volume perspective, but the market fundamentals have not changed.”

slowed down in January as missing capacity was restored last year.

Compared to the previous year, January’s global average spot rate continued to show a double-digit year over year decline of 21 per cent, although

at a slower pace compared to a decline of 38 per cent witnessed in January 2023.

“We saw a relatively strong January 2024 from a volume perspective, but the market fundamentals have not changed. This is not consumers buying more, it is likely to be linked with Red Sea disruption as well as the upcoming Lunar New Year and some indicators that the general cargo market is busier than expected. We do not see this reflected in rates but that’s not surprising in January because there’s not the same pressure on capacity,” said Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer, Xeneta.

“The situation in the Red Sea has brought nervousness

Global summary of the general air freight market in January 2024

Region	Dynamic load factor		
	Jan '24	vs Jan '23	vs Dec '23
	Abs. in %	Change in p.pts %	Change in p.pts %
Global	57%	+13.9%	-2.7%
Outbound:	-		
Asia Pacific	68%	+14.0%	-2.1%
North America	46%	+10.8%	-4.1%
Europe	59%	-0.5%	-7.0%
Middle East & Central Asia	57%	+15.4%	+10.8%
Latin America	58%	+11.0%	-1.4%
Africa	52%	+16.8%	+11.2%

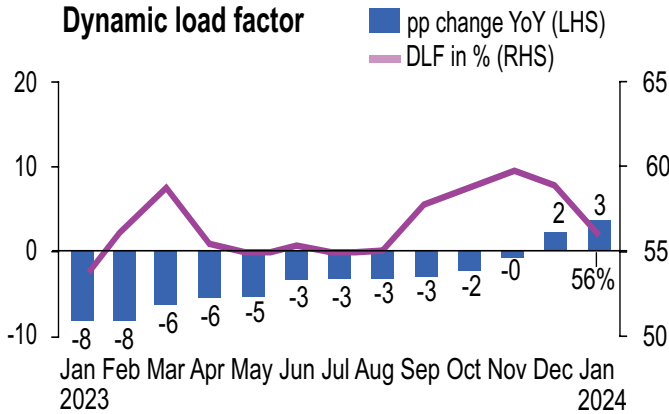
Source: CLIVE Data Services, now part of Xeneta



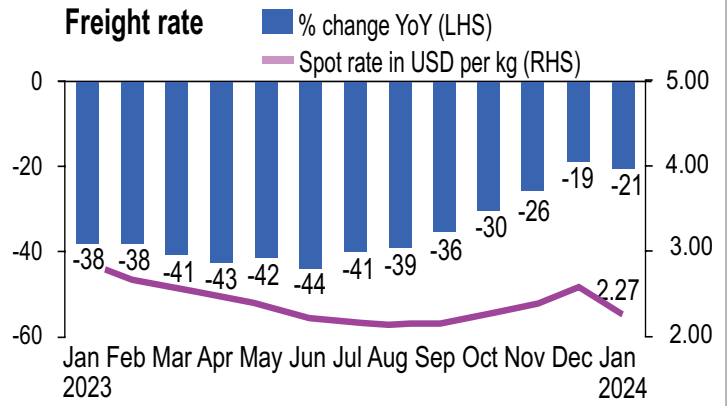
A positive start of the year from a demand perspective

Global air cargo demand, supply, load factor and freight rate developments

Dynamic load factor



Freight rate



Source: Xeneta

to many supply chains and possibly encouraged some shippers to have a knee-jerk reaction, shifting to air freight, bringing volumes forward, and securing capacity. However, the consensus seems to be that this will not produce a long-term positive effect on air freight. Once the initial nerves and uncertainty subside, stability will return once shippers accept that ocean freight may just take two weeks longer, causing the need for air freight to then dwindle. I am not hearing it is turning the air freight market

upside down like we saw, for example, during the strike at the ports on the west coast of the USA.”

While uncertainties due to economic anxiety and geopolitical tensions continue to linger, the air cargo market, van de Wouw said, might be more focused on what happens to e-commerce following the ‘crazy’ air freight volumes online sales generated in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The shrinking German economy, the slowdown of China’s economic growth, and the still-

elevated interest rates due to high inflation could also mute global air cargo demand at least in the first half of 2024.

With shippers needing to move goods ahead of the Lunar New Year to optimize consumer demand in Europe and boost factory production in China, some of January’s higher air cargo volumes are likely due to some shippers shifting from ocean transport to air.

This contrasts with the trend of freight rates from Northeast Asia to the USA,

Uncertainties due to economic anxiety and geopolitical tensions continue to linger in the air

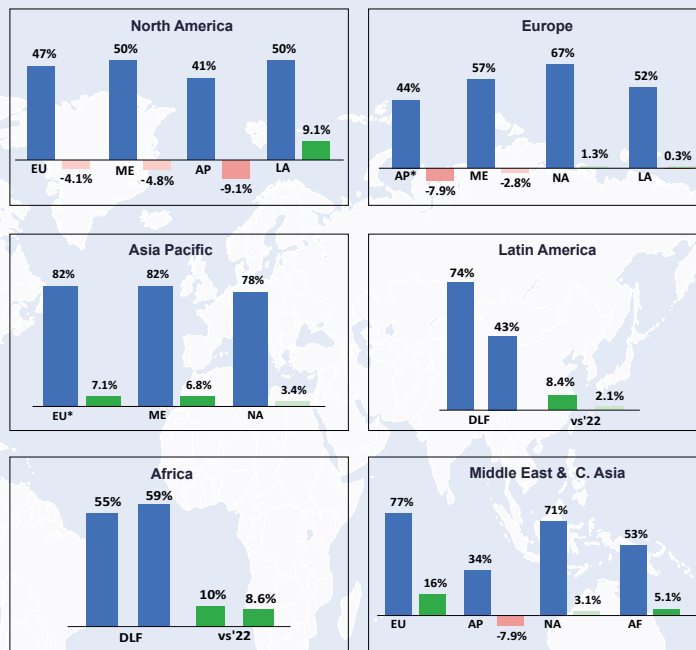
where general cargo spot rates continued their downward trend since mid-December, reaching US\$3.28 per kg in the week ending 28 January, down 7 per cent compared to three weeks prior. While it may have boosted demand for capacity, the Lunar New Year did not manage to push general cargo spot rates from China to the USA higher. These hovered around US\$3.43 per kg in January. In comparison, general cargo spot rates from Europe to the USA remained stable in January at US\$1.77 per kg, with a slight increase of 4 per cent from three weeks ago.

“The market remains difficult to predict. Let us wait and see what happens in February when we might see air and ocean volumes as well as rates fall back if more stability returns to the market. But January was a strong slow month and, after a difficult year, the air cargo industry will not be complaining about starting the year on a positive note,” van de Wouw added. 🍀

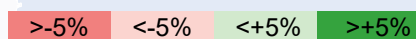
Global lane developments of the general air freight market January 2024

*The dynamic loadfactor and capacity analyses for these lanes also include the flights between Asia Pacific/Africa and Middle East

Notes: Dynamic loadfactor (DLF) is in absolute percentage and Year over year (YoY) is based on the change in percentage points



Year-over-year (y-o-y) percentage points difference:




Source: CLIVE Data Services, now part of Xeneta

Digitalisation likely to increase risk of **cyber-attacks**

Geopolitical instability and technological vulnerabilities make safeguarding cargo ops a priority, says **Vandana Singh, Director, Global Corporate Key Account Management, ISC & Far East, Saudia Cargo**. Clear regulations for new technologies and safe operations with autonomous systems is a must, she adds.



 Ritika Arora Bhola

Do you see the cargo volumes and yields going up for Saudia Cargo in 2024 now?

Amidst the global recession and economic slowdown, the air cargo industry faces significant challenges. Industry-wide cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs) have been on a decline for 11 consecutive months as of January 2023, falling by 14.9 per cent year over year. This contraction in demand is also reflected in a decrease of 11 per cent compared to pre-pandemic levels. Moreover, international CTKs declined slightly faster than overall cargo traffic, registering a 16.2 per cent YoY contraction. However, things are slowly getting back to normal, and I am pretty sure that 2024 will be a great year for us.

How was 2023 for the carrier's business in Middle East?

The year 2023 was a fantastic year for Saudia Cargo in terms



Vandana Singh
Director, Global Corporate Key Account Management
ISC & Far East, Saudia Cargo

of commercial operations; we developed exponentially during the year and learned a lot from the industry. Saudia Cargo has a considerable presence in Middle East. Our fleet of freighter aircraft ensures timely transportation of goods, supporting trade and commerce.

The logistics industry is benefiting from the technological advancements, and infrastructure capex, which is boosting the business exceptionally well. Given the surge in e-commerce, Saudia Cargo plays a crucial role in trans-

“The global air cargo industry in this year may herald the start of a new economic growth cycle.”

porting online orders, ensuring timely deliveries. Their efficient logistics network supports the growing demand for e-commerce shipments.

What are the crucial pain points for air cargo industry stakeholders today?

The air cargo business has a few difficulties that have an influence on stakeholders throughout the world. As the industry becomes increasingly digitalised, the risk of cyberattacks grows. Geopolitical instability and technological vulnerabilities make safeguarding cargo operations a priority. In fact, many industry leaders ex-

press concern about potential cyberattacks. However, establishing clear regulations for new technologies and safe operations with autonomous systems is quite a task. Though, I am quite certain that the air cargo sector will adjust to these changes and continue to develop shortly.

How do you look at the global air cargo recovering in the coming months?

The future of the air cargo industry holds promise and cautious optimism. The global air cargo industry in this year may herald the start of a new economic growth cycle. Automation and digitization continue to accelerate logistics industry growth. Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain, and Internet of Things simplify operations, optimize resources, and enhance efficiency. To sum up, the air cargo industry is poised for growth, driven by technological advancements, policy reforms, and resilience among others. 🌟



KQ Cargo launches new weekly freighter route

The carrier expanded its route network, which will be served by one freighter. It will link vital hubs and open new opportunities for cargo services. This freighter would cover a market characterized by narrow body belly only options, lengthy transit times, and expensive rates, says **Dick Murianki, Director, KQ Cargo.**

 CT Bureau

Kenya Airways Cargo (KQ Cargo) has expanded its route network to include direct cargo flights between Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Mogadishu in Somalia. The new air route will be served weekly and is expected to grow to two weekly frequencies in April 2024. KQ Cargo has partnered with the Global GSA Cargo LLC, an international cargo sales and service agent based out of the UAE, as the cargo logistics partner to service the route.

KQ Cargo recently increased its freighter capacities following the entry of a B737-800F into its service, which offers an extended range, connecting important cargo hubs and opening new opportunities for cargo services in order to meet demands of customers and an ever-evolving market.



Dick Murianki
Director
KQ Cargo

The cargo business trading as KQ Cargo offers high-quality air freight services to our growing list of customers around the world. KQ Cargo utilizes a dedicated freighter fleet of 3B737 together with freight capacity on board the passenger fleet delivering air freight to 41 key global destinations.


The new route aligns with the carrier's revamped mis-

sion of propelling Africa's prosperity by connecting its people, cultures and markets and strengthening KQ Cargo's position as Africa's preferred cargo carrier, offering unique network options for customers, according to Dick Murianki, Director, KQ Cargo.

"We are delighted to expand our world-class logistics service to underserved markets with a solid product and believe in having a direct service complemented by Dubai's trader, transit, humanitarian, and project-driven traffic. The direct route between UAE and Somalia offers huge demand for air freight transportation, particularly high-tech consumer goods, automotive parts, project cargo, and clothing, which are the frequently flown goods on the route. Kenya Airways has the expertise in the region, and our B737-800F capacity would be the ideal mix over the long term," he said.

"UAE, being a multimodal logistics hub, acts as a primary gateway to Africa, and having a dedicated KQ Cargo freighter service this route cuts transit times and offers scheduled main deck capacity to remote destinations across

“We are delighted to expand our world-class logistics service to underserved markets.”

the region. This service would cover a market characterized by narrow body belly -only options, lengthy transit times, and expensive rates," Kannan Nachiappan, CEO, Global GSA Cargo LLC said. 

Food corridors in Middle East soon, tripartite pact signed

Etihaad Cargo, AUH, ADFH agreed to work together to be a key node in global food supply chains. The pact demonstrates their commitment to expanding food trade network. The partners, together, aim to establish a strong ecosystem for food trading and investment, which includes advanced infrastructure.

CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, Abu Dhabi Airports, a key enabler of the emirate's aviation sector, and Abu Dhabi Food Hub (ADFH) – KEZAD, have signed a tripartite MoU to jointly establish a fully compliant origin-to-destination perishable air corridor known as the 'Fresh Corridor 2.0'. The initiative will support the diversification of food sources, developing new trade corridors and enhancing the choice and variety of products available for regional consumers.

The agreement strengthens the integrated offering of Abu Dhabi through collaborative efforts by the three parties



Antonoaldo Neves, CEO, Etihad Airways, Elena Sorlini, Managing Director and Interim CEO, Abu Dhabi Airports and Suresh Vaidhyathan, CEO, Abu Dhabi Food Hub sign a tri-partite MoU to jointly establish a fully compliant origin-to-destination perishable air corridor known as the 'Fresh Corridor 2.0'

It aims to spark innovation in trade tech and establish best practices for its adoption

that involves an exchange of knowledge and expertise in handling, storage and logistics, food safety, and hygiene as part of the trading process. Furthermore, the partnership is dedicated to addressing the evolving demands of the food trade by liaising with government stakeholders, relevant facilitators, and key contributors from the food ecosystem thus ensuring a seamless trade.

The MoU set a framework for Abu Dhabi's food trade enablers to position the UAE as a key node in global food supply chains. The partners, together, aim to establish a strong ecosystem for food trading and investment, which includes advanced infrastructure, access to regional consumer markets, and reliable logistics and connectivity worldwide.

Antonoaldo Neves, CEO, Etihad Airways, said, "Etihad Cargo is committed to the UAE's National Food Security Strategy 2051 and is proud to be an active partner in the launch of the region's largest food wholesale market—ADFH at KEZAD."

The partnership aims to set new standards in commercial and operational excellence within the global food trade. It seeks to offer solutions that meet the demands of the in-

dustry and result in the effective management of the global supply chain and logistics.

Elena Sorlini, MD and Interim CEO, Abu Dhabi Airports, said, "Our collective proposition to facilitate trade in and out of the UAE will support the commercial development of the emirate as a global food centre. We are delighted to be a part of this MoU along with Etihad Cargo and ADFH. The launch of the Fresh Corridor 2.0 will encourage two-way food trade between the UAE and the rest of the world bringing food products into the UAE but also taking our "Made in the UAE" products to the world in a bold step towards diversification and growth of imports and exports."

Suresh Vaidhyathan, CEO, ADFH, said, "This agreement is a testimony of our

commitment to develop and operate the food hub as one of the finest food wholesale markets globally. This collaboration will indeed enhance our multimodal capabilities as we seek to position the UAE as a leader in the regional food value chain. We are excited to support the global food players in accessing the regional consumer markets with integrated supply chain solutions and incorporating the most recent technologies and be a key enabler in food trade diversification and UAE's Food Security Agenda. Our vision is to create an unparalleled ecosystem of sellers and buyers from around the world."


KEY FEATURES

- Etihad Cargo is bound to National Food Security Strategy 2051.



New tool launched for safe air transportation

Etihad Cargo has launched SecureTech, a new product dedicated to safe transportation of electronics, to meet growing demand of mobile phones among others. The new tool has enhanced Etihad's expertise in handling electronic products and provides features to ensure its shipments are handled securely.

 CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has launched a new tool, SecureTech, which is dedicated to the safe and secure transportation of consumer electronics, including mobile phones, laptops, tablets and other lithium battery-powered devices. Etihad Cargo has developed and launched SecureTech in response to growing demand for a product addressing the challenges of transporting high-value electronic devices cost-effectively, while minimizing risks.

To ensure the secure transportation of electronic devices, Etihad Cargo provides several security features. Products transported via SecureTech are monitored during the build-up and breakdown of pallets in secure and controlled storage areas at the origin, during transit and at the destination. Constant surveillance is provided by security personnel or CCTV systems, ensuring only authorized personnel have access to shipments during transportation.

SecureTech also ensures the safe movement of elec-



Leonard Rodrigues
Acting Managing Director
Etihad Cargo

tronics. Lithium batteries are the preferred energy source for these products. Although

they are widely used, lithium batteries can pose a safety risk if not handled properly and in accordance with transport regulations due to their potential to ignite, explode or go into thermal runaway.

Etihad Cargo's number one priority is safety, and the carrier recently became the third Middle Eastern carrier to achieve IATA's Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators Lithium Batteries (CEIV Li-batt) certification. Achieving this globally recognised standard proves Etihad Cargo's commitment to transporting lithium

sonnel. Etihad Cargo delivers rigorous training programmes to ensure teams are handling lithium batteries safely and securely and meticulously reviews all documentation, packaging, and labelling during acceptance checks with the aid of a specifically designed acceptance checklist.

“Lithium batteries can pose a risk if not handled properly and not as per transport regulations.”

“Etihad Cargo has launched SecureTech based on feedback from the carrier’s partners and customers and the growing demand for a dedicated product to make the transportation of consumer electronics safer and more secure. Over the years, Etihad Cargo has developed expertise in handling specialised products, and moving lithium battery-powered devices comes with unique challenges. Etihad Cargo is well-equipped to overcome

battery shipments safely using sophisticated safety management systems and specialized equipment.

In addition to Etihad Cargo’s facilities and operations, CEIV Li-batt certification also extends to the carrier’s per-



these challenges thanks to its experience in transporting high-value, fragile, time- and temperature-sensitive, and dangerous goods.”

Etihad Cargo has witnessed a surge in demand for air cargo capacity for transportation of consumer electronics, recording a significant increase in the number of mobile phone shipments from India. “The latest market data suggests India’s electronic exports exceeded US\$20 billion in 2023, with mobile phones making up 52 per cent of all electronic exports. Other top exporters of electronic devices included China and Vietnam. SecureTech, in combination with the introduction of new

routes and increased frequencies for these key markets, will enable Etihad Cargo to fully meet the increasing demand for electronic shipments while giving customers and partners confidence that their products will arrive safely at their final destination on time and as promised.”

KEY FEATURES

- Etihad Cargo holds IATA CEIV Li-batt certification, ensuring its handling of electronics is in accordance with the highest safety and efficiency standards.

Etihad Cargo gets IATA CEIV Li-batt certification

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has achieved IATA Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators Lithium Batteries (CEIV Li-batt) certification. The carrier is the third Middle Eastern airline to attain this certification and has become the fifth airline internationally to achieve CEIV Pharma, Fresh, Live Animals and Li-batt certifications.

CEIV Li-batt certification is a globally recognised endorsement, signifying an airline’s capability to handle and transport lithium bat-



Thomas Schürmann
Head, Cargo Operations & Delivery
Etihad Cargo

teries in accordance with the highest safety and efficiency standards. Certification in-

volves a comprehensive assessment of an airline’s operational processes, staff training programmes, and compliance with global safety regulations.

The carrier underwent an extensive audit by independent validators, demonstrating the carrier’s commitment to meeting and surpassing industry standards. This certification is testament to Etihad Cargo’s safety management systems, and a team proficient enough in the specific logistics of lithium battery shipments. “As per IATA, lithium batteries represent one-third of the

dangerous goods transported by air and have become the preferred energy source for a variety of consumer goods. It highlights Etihad Cargo’s dedication to maintaining safety and operational excellence standards. This achievement positions the carrier among an elite group of global airlines that are committed to meeting the safety standards of the lithium battery supply chain through the competent handling and transport of these products,” Thomas Schürmann, Head, Cargo Operations & Delivery, Etihad Cargo, said.



LATAM Group transports 25,000 tonnes of flowers

In three weeks, LATAM’s cargo subsidiaries conducted more than 400 takeoffs from Bogotá, Medellín, and Quito to export South American flowers to the United States of America and Europe. The volume transported represents a 36% increase compared to the 2023 season.



 CT Bureau

The LATAM Group, through its air cargo subsidiaries, transported close to 25,000 tonnes of flowers in just 21 days from Colombia and Ecuador, responding to the high demand for flowers triggered by the celebration of Valentine’s Day.

LATAM Group’s cargo unit significantly increased the frequencies offered from these countries. Consequently, tonnes of flowers regularly transported to North America and Europe.

The total exported corresponds to 575 million flower stems, equivalent to one



Claudio Torres Faini
International Commercial Director,
South America, LATAM Cargo Chile

flower for every inhabitant of the USA, Colombia, Ecuador and France. During January 18-February 7, the company's cargo subsidiaries conducted around 418 takeoffs from Quito, Bogotá, and Medellín, doubling the regular frequen-

cies from Colombia and Ecuador to deliver this product to the USA and Europe.

GEARING UP FOR THE SEASON

“To face this season, two additional freighters were incorporated to allow us to accompany the growth of our customers and satisfy their need for capacity, achieving a 36 per cent increase in the transportation of flowers compared to the previous year. This achievement was possible thanks to a close collaboration with customers, suppliers and the airport team and care and infrastructure needed for perishables,” said Claudio Torres Faini, International Commercial Director, South America, LATAM Car-

go Chile. “The LATAM Group has made 21 freighter aircraft available, thanks to the recent addition to its fleet of two cargo aircraft on a temporary basis.” This has given its cargo customers from Colombia and Ecuador added capacity and flexibility in this high demand period. Investments were made in the Miami hub, the primary arrival station for this product, to modernize the cold storage warehouses, currently representing around 9,000m² of available space.

From Colombia, 13,000 tonnes of flowers, including roses, carnations, and chrysanthemums, were ferried from departments of Antioquia and Cundinamarca in 220 flights, reflecting a 19 per

cent growth against 2023. On the Ecuadorian side, the group increased the capacity offered for this season, with 200 fre-


“ Apart from 21 freighters, 2 cargo flights were inducted on a temporary basis to ferry the flowers.”

quencies, allowing them to export 11,500 tonnes of flowers to the main global markets, doubling the amount transported in 2023. 🌸



Airport Handling to begin operations at Rome airport

A subsidiary of dnata, the firm is expanding into Rome. It has invested €20 million to purchase new GSE. Operating in the Italian capital is a strategic move; it aligns with our growth strategy and underlines our commitment to consistently enhancing our operations, says **Alberto Morosi, CEO, Airport Handling.**

 CT Bureau

Airport Handling, a majority-owned subsidiary of leading global air and travel services provider dnata, has been awarded a seven-year ground handling license by Aeroporti di Roma and will establish operations at Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO). The company is targeting to launch operations in the

Italian capital in second quarter this year.

Airport Handling will provide a range of quality and safe ramp and passenger services to airlines in Rome. It has already committed an investment of €20 million to purchase new ground support equipment (GSE), including advanced electric vehicles. Having recruited a local sen-

ior management team, familiar with the Rome market, Airport Handling is targeting to employ 1,800 aviation professionals at FCO.

“We are proud to have secured operating license at one another Italian airport because of a competitive tender process. Expanding into Rome FCO is a milestone that aligns with our growth strategy and

underlines our commitment to enhancing our operations. We look forward to working with the airport to deliver high quality and safe services for our airline customers and their passengers travelling to or through Rome. I thank our partners for their trust in our services and our team for their hard work and dedication,” Alberto Morosi, CEO, Airport Handling of dnata, said.



Alberto Morosi
CEO, Airport Handling
of dnata

Airport Handling's expansion into Rome strengthens its position as a leading air services provider in Italy. A trusted partner of 60 airlines,

the company's dedicated teams handle 22 million pas-

sengers and 82,000 flights annually at the two Milan airports, Malpensa (MXP) and Linate (LIN).

The majority stakeholder of Airport Handling is dnata, which operates at more than 120 airports globally. Besides its ground handling business, dnata also provides catering & retail services at all major Italian airports, including Rome Fiumicino. Serving over 300 airline customers, dnata's customer-oriented teams handled more than 710,000 aircraft turns, moved over 2.7 million tonnes of cargo and

“Expanding into Rome is a milestone aligning with our growth and underlines our commitment to enhancing our operations.”

updated 111.4 million meals in the financial year 2022-23. 🇮🇹





Chaminda Perera, Head, Cargo, SriLankan Cargo and Moritz Claussen, Founder and Co-Chief Executive, cargo.one announcing the global partnership agreement to offer freight forwarders in 107 markets access to SriLankan Cargo's cargo capacity

SriLankan Cargo adds freight capacity to cargo.one

From summer 2024, forwarders using cargo.one can book SriLankan Cargo capacity. It is excellent to see our teams are kick-starting smart initiatives to maximize our market opportunities, says Chaminda Perera, Head, Cargo, SriLankan Cargo.

 CT Bureau

SriLankan Cargo will place its capacity later this year on digital air cargo booking platform cargo.one, enabling freight forwarders access a global network of 37 destinations in 21 countries. SriLankan Cargo is the first South Asian carrier that cargo.one has added to its platform.

From summer 2024, freight forwarders using cargo.one can book SriLankan Cargo capacity, for both general cargo and perishables, across its entire global network including destinations such as London, Frankfurt, Paris, Chennai, Delhi, Singapore, Shanghai,

Canton, Tokyo, Melbourne, and Sydney.

“Our digital sales progression is a key driver of our growth, and cargo.one is a logical expert to expedite our transition. We can have total confidence that every SriLankan Cargo customer will enjoy a top-class digital experience. It is excellent to see that our teams are already kick-starting smart initiatives to maximize our market opportunities,” Chaminda Perera, Head, Cargo, SriLankan Cargo, said.


“We are play an important role in fueling the exciting growth of SriLankan Cargo, our first South Asian carrier. By entering the digital market strongly with a world class,

SriLankan Cargo is best placed to leverage its valuable strengths and deliver for more forwarders

customer centric sales channel, SriLankan Cargo is best placed to leverage its valuable strengths and deliver for many more forwarders globally,” Moritz Claussen, Founder and Co-Chief Executive, cargo.one commented.

The airline’s international network covers Europe, the Middle East, south Asia, Southeast Asia, the Far East and Australia.

The airline leverages its direct flights to important hubs in Europe, as well as particularly strong cargo capacity options to the Gulf region and India. With its road and partner networks, SriLankan Cargo further expands its reach to serve more than 200 destinations worldwide.

Last month, Chinese air logistics group, the HNA Cargo, has partnered with the cargo.one to offer the freight forwarders access to its air cargo capacity in as many as 107 markets. 

Now, a pact for providing seamless e-commerce services

This strategic partnership is built to enhance operations between the countries. Emirates Post and Qatar Post will work together to deliver products purchased from online merchants in the United Arab Emirates within Qatar, all via the Qatar Post-owned 'CONNECTED' platform.

CT Bureau

A strategic partnership agreement was signed by Emirates Post, the UAE's official postal services provider and the postal arm of 7X, with Qatar Postal Services Company 'Qatar Post,' the national postal services provider of Qatar to facilitate e-com-

Qatar Post aims to foster expansion of e-commerce industry, the pact reflects its commitment

merce shipping operations between both countries. His Excellency Abdulla Mohammed Alashram, Group CEO, 7X, and His Excellency Falah bin Mohammed Al-Naemi, CMD, Qatar Post, signed the agreement at Qatar Post's Headquarters.



His Excellency Abdulla Mohammed Alashram, Group Chief Executive Officer, 7X and His Excellency Falah bin Mohammed Al-Naemi, Chairman and Managing Director, Qatar Post signing the strategic partnership agreement at Qatar Post Headquarters

As per the terms of the agreement, both parties will work together to deliver goods purchased from online merchants in the UAE within Qatar, all via the Qatar Post-owned 'CONNECTED' platform. Emirates Post will oversee the shipping of products to Qatar Post by air, and provide them with a range of services such as sorting, packaging, storing, shipping, and other product handling services.

Qatar Post will be responsible for all customs clearance and product delivery operations within Qatar, as



well as training relevant Emirates Post employees about the platform. "We affirm our unwavering commitment to providing a seamless and efficient shipping experience, adhering to the highest quality standards, aiming to facilitate e-commerce operations and deliver high-quality and efficient services, fostering collaboration between our two organizations," His Excellency Abdulla Mohammed Alashram said.

"This agreement marks a milestone in Qatar Post and Emirates Post's endeavours to enhance product shipping op-

erations and ensure an exceptional customer experience. Qatar Post consistently aims to foster the expansion of the e-commerce industry, and this agreement reflects our steadfast commitment to driving this vision and improving shipping and clearance operations, thereby benefiting the regional economy," His Excellency Falah bin Mohammed Al-Naemi remarked.

The 'CONNECTED' platform is an integrated international e-commerce service for international shipping provided by Qatar Postal Services Company 'Qatar Post.'



Emirates Delivers' **new** route linking Kuwait to UAE

Emirates SkyCargo launches new route connecting Kuwaiti shoppers with UAE-based brands. Dubai, home to world's largest mall, is renowned hive for shopping, attracting some of the most popular and in-demand brands, most of which also offer e-commerce.

CT Bureau

Emirates Delivers, the e-commerce delivery solution from Emirates SkyCargo, has launched a new route, connecting Kuwaiti shoppers with their favourite UAE based-brands. Now, Ku-

Shoppers can fill their online baskets which will be delivered from the UAE in just 3-5 days

waiti shoppers can shop online from websites in the UAE, the UK and the US with fast, reliable, and cost-effective international shipping via Emirates Delivers.

Home to the world's largest mall, Dubai is a renowned hive for shopping, attracting some of the most popular and in-demand brands, most of

which offer e-commerce. UAE retail has something for everyone: from boutiques with fresh-from-the-runway pieces to department stores; home-grown brands to sprawling stores stocking one-of-a-kind décor, not to mention the array of innovative tech and latest gadgets. Kuwaiti shoppers can fill their online baskets and Emirates Delivers will bring the items from the UAE in just 3-5 days.

Emirates Delivers is a useful delivery tool to use while you are in Kuwait but can maximize your next retail therapy trip to Dubai, by sending your new purchases back via Emirates Delivers. Dubai hosts shopping festivals such as Dubai Shopping Festival, Dubai Summer Surprises as well as bi-yearly and seasonal super sales. By launching this new route, Emirates Delivers ensures Kuwait shoppers will never miss out on a deal. To celebrate the new route, existing Emirates Delivers shoppers can enjoy their first ship-



ment from the UAE to Kuwait completely free of charge until 1 March 2024.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS

Upon signing up to Emirates Delivers, shoppers are given a unique shipping address in the UAE, UK and the USA, available in 'My Suite'. This allows users to start shopping online, and have their items delivered to the Emirates Delivers facility. Once the items arrive at

the facility, agents will review the purchases for damage and upload their photos, before repacking to ensure proper wrapping and protection for international delivery. With free storage of up to 30 days, Emirates Delivers allows customers to combine items from different retailers and vendors and consolidate their purchases into one package to reduce the already-competitive shipping costs. 📦



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UAE, KSA, Qatar among top emerging logistics markets

Gulf region's leading economies are outpacing their GCC neighbours and accelerating economic diversification. Logistics experts in the Agility's Emerging Markets Index rank countries on their logistic strengths, costs, business climate, improvements of small businesses, and economic diversification.

CT Bureau

The UAE, Qatar and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continue to rank among the world's top 10 emerging markets for logistics, improving or holding steady in key areas while neighboring Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait lose ground in the 15th annual Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index.

UAE, which stands third in the 50-country index after China and India, held its rank from 2023, as did No. 6 Kingdom of KSA and No. 7 Qatar. Oman (15), Bahrain (16) and



John Manners-Bell
Chief Executive
Ti

Kuwait (21) all fell in the rankings. In Agility's survey of 830 logistics industry executives,

respondents say KSA and UAE are doing the most among GCC countries to accelerate economic diversification and lessen reliance on income from oil and gas.

UAE ranks No. 1 for best business fundamentals; KSA is No. 3 in that category. Even so, logistics professionals in the survey identified further improvements for small businesses and MNCs as the most powerful drivers of continued diversification for all GCC countries.

The survey and Index are Agility's 15th annual snap-

“UAE & KSA ranked top 10 in all categories, while Qatar ranked 20th for international opportunities.”

shot of industry sentiment and ranking of the world's 50 leading emerging markets. The index ranks countries for overall competitiveness based



on their logistics strengths, business climates and digital readiness—factors that make them attractive to logistics providers, freight forwarders, air and ocean carriers, distributors and investors.

UAE and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia rank in the top 10 in every category. Qatar ranked among the top 10 in all categories except international logistics opportunities, where it was 20th. The only top 10 ranking for Oman, Bahrain or Kuwait was Bahrain at No. 8 for business fundamentals.

“Supply chain managers are still coming to terms with the political and economic instability characterising the post-COVID international economy. Geopolitical relationships are changing rapidly, and this is having a major impact on international trade and risk profiles. Businesses need to be alive to the opportunities and threats that exist in emerging markets and use data, such as that the Agility Emerging Market Logistics Index, to inform agile decision-making,” John Manners-Bell, Chief Executive, Ti, said.



Half of the logistics professionals surveyed said a global recession in the coming year—down from nearly 70 per cent a year ago. Execu-

COUNTRY RANKINGS

In the Middle East and North Africa, overall rankings are as follows:

- ❖ UAE (3); KSA (6); Qatar (7); Turkey (11); Oman (15); Bahrain (16); Jordan (17); Egypt (20); Kuwait (21); Morocco (22); Tunisia (37); Lebanon (38); Iran (40); Algeria (42); Libya (50).
- ❖ Rankings in Sub-Saharan Africa: South Africa (24); Kenya (25); Ghana (31); Nigeria (36); Tanzania (41); Uganda (43); Ethiopia (45); Mozambique (46); Angola (47)
- ❖ Index rankings in Asia: China (1); India (2); Malaysia (4); Indonesia (5); Vietnam (8); Thailand (10); Philippines (18); Kazakhstan (23); Sri Lanka (26); Pakistan (29); Cambodia (32); Bangladesh (33)

tives surveyed said they are battling higher costs, reducing dependence on sourcing from China, and planning to boost investment in Africa, despite seeing emerging markets investment overall as somewhat riskier.

More than 63 per cent of the respondents said their companies continue over-

hauling supply chains by spreading production to multiple locations or relocating it to home markets and neighbouring countries. China, which is the leading producer of the world, stands to be the most affected—37.4 per cent of the stakeholders responded they planning to move production/sourcing out of China or reduce investment. 📉





Boeing, Bahri Logistics ink pact to boost KSA supply chains

We look forward to leveraging our capabilities and expertise within the domain of logistics to offer exceptional services that meet the needs of Boeing Saudi Arabia. We are committed to increasing the efficiency and scale of Boeing’s supply chain activities, says **Engineer Soror Basalom, President, Bahri Integrated Logistics**.

CT Bureau

International aerospace giant Boeing’s, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia unit has signed an agreement with a major business unit of Bahri Integrated Logistics, leader in logistics and transportation, that will witness the two entities collaborate in the areas of supply chain and distribution in the Kingdom.

Announcing the agreement, Boeing stated it aims to bolster the group’s supply chain activities in the Kingdom and enhance the role of Bahri Integrated Logistics in supporting services and defence-related products.

The agreement will also see the two entities explore opportunities for freight forwarding, warehousing, in-

ventory management and performance-based logistics consulting, thus leveraging Bahri Logistics’ existing capabilities and supply channels in the Kingdom.

“Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a strategic market for us and we are investing to grow our presence and supply chains to better serve our customers and provide the

parts and services they need in the Kingdom,” Asaad Aljomoai, President, Boeing Saudi Arabia unit, said.

“Together with Bahri Logistics, we will contribute to the growth of the Kingdom’s defense capabilities and drive growth in the aerospace sector by utilizing the Special Integrated Logistics Zone (SILZ),” he added.



“We are proud to collaborate with Boeing Saudi Arabia and explore this new and ex-

citating opportunity. At Bahri Logistics, we look forward to leveraging our capabilities and

expertise within the domain of logistics to offer exceptional services that meet the needs of Boeing, Saudi Arabia unit,” Engineer Soror Basalom, President, Bahri Integrated Logistics, said.

“We are committed to increasing the efficiency and scale of Boeing’s supply chain activities, while contributing to the growth and development of the defense sector in the Kingdom,” explained Engineer Basalom. The strategic engagement with Boeing unit marks a step toward realizing ambition of the Bahri Logistics to become a global logis-

Transportation infrastructure, a pivotal element of logistics, undergoes transformation in the ME

tics leader in line with the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030, he added. 🇸🇦



Dubai digital trading hub exceeds 300 mn transactions

Dubai's trade and logistics platform continues to pioneer digital innovation in support of Economic Agenda D33. Its payment system, Rosoom, saw a 32% rise in transactions, reaching 3.3 million in 2023 as against 2.5 million in 2022. The total value of these payments grew by 40% to AED 2 billion.

CT Bureau

Dubai Trade, the trade facilitation platform in the UAE, has crossed 300 million transactions since it was established in 2003, thus eliminating 617 million printed documents and saving 25,400 MT of CO₂ emissions. The achievement comes on the back of a record-setting year in 2023, with Dubai Trade registering 32.6 million transactions as against 26 million the year before, representing a 25 per cent increase. Out of these, 48 per cent of the transactions were related to clearance and border controls, with 44 per cent falling under cargo handling and logistics.



Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem
Group Chairman and CEO
DP World

Dubai Trade, the digital arm of DP World in the GCC region, has consistently demonstrated robust growth since it was formed, with an

average 8 per cent year over year increase in annual digital transactions since 2003. Dubai Trade facilitates nearly 90,000 transactions daily.

“Dubai Trade’s growth since 2003 reflects our strategic focus on improving the flow of trade through digitalisation, which is aligned with Dubai’s Economic Agenda D33. By integrating key stakeholders and driving trade activity through our single window platform, we have significantly enhanced trade efficiencies, contributing to Dubai’s non-oil foreign trade target and supporting sustainability objectives at the same time,” Sultan Ahmed Bin Su-

“The transportation infra, a vital element of logistics, undergoes transformation.”

layem, Group Chairman and CEO, DP World, said.

“We are thrilled to breach the 300 million transactions-mark, which is testament to the pivotal role Dubai Trade has played in supporting economic activity and digitalising



the trade and logistics industry in Dubai over the past two decades. Our ongoing investment in digital infrastructure and smart solutions is geared towards making cross-border trade in Dubai seamless, faster and more accessible, and we look forward to even more success as we continue to transform our single window platform," Mohamed Abu-Hamra, Chief Operating Officer, Digital Technology, DP World GCC, said.

Dubai Trade was created to bring together various trade and logistics service providers under one digital platform. Today, it boasts a



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

- ❖ Trade and logistics: 22,420 new customers registered on the platform in 2023, marking a rise of 17 per cent on the number of new registrations in 2022
- ❖ Payment gateway: Rosoom witnessed a 32 per cent increase in transactions, reaching 3.3 million in 2023 compared to 2.5 million in 2022. The total value of these payments grew by 40 per cent to AED 2 billion
- ❖ Supply chain and logistics academy: Dubai Trade's educational academy, which offers courses and workshops for the sector, trained 5,500 candidates in 2023, double the number of 2,500 candidates in 2022
- ❖ Sustainability: through the on-going digitalisation of services, Dubai Trade eliminated the need for around 25.5 million physical visits and 85 million documents thus saving time, fuel and 3,450 MT of emissions

user base of 180,000 traders and a comprehensive digital ecosystem offering over 700 digital solutions, including customs clearance, government permits, port clearance certificates, company licensing, and free zone administrative services.

KEY FEATURES

- Its investment in digital infra is geared towards making cross-border trade in Dubai seamless.



deugro strengthens focus on green energy sector

The company, in its centenary year, plans to increase investment in the wind and renewables industries. We remain more committed than ever to driving innovation and supply chain and logistics excellence, capitalising on more than a century of expertise, said **Steffen Behrens, President, Middle East, deugro.**

CT Bureau

Heavy lift and project cargo specialist deugro is strengthening its focus on the green energy sector as it marks the start of its 2024 centenary celebrations at Breakbulk Middle East in Dubai, UAE, from 12-13 February 2024.

deugro, which first entered the Middle East market in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in June 1982, now has eight re-



Thomas Wylie
Head, Global Strategic Projects
deugro

“We are committed to drive innovation and supply chain excellence.”

gional offices in five countries, with the additional countries being the UAE, Kingdom of Bahrain, Sultanate of Oman, and Qatar.

deugro, which was established in 1924 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, has been steadily increasing its focus on

the new industries in recent years. The company is a leading expert in project freight forwarding, ocean transportation, transport and marine engineering, and heavy haulage and equipment management among others.

“The deugro team could not be more pleased to be marking the start of this milestone anniversary in a region that underscores the evolving and growing renewable sector,” said Steffen Behrens, President, Middle East, deugro. “Doubling our efforts to support the booming global energy transition landscape is a natural next step in our evolution, and we are excited to be able to provide the technical skills, specialist assets, and wealth of experience to support the industry at this critical time.”



Steffen Behrens
President, Middle East
deugro

In addition to supporting several large solar farms across the Middle East, deugro recently completed transporting several super heavy lift cargoes for the world’s largest green hydrogen plant located in KSA, which will in the end power green ammonia production for export.

“Doubling our efforts to support energy transition is natural next step in our evolution.”

“We remain more committed than ever to driving innovation and supply chain and logistics excellence, capitalising on more than a century of expertise, all aimed at ensuring that our clients everywhere on the planet are able to exceed their growth ambitions and overcome the challenges of today,” Thomas Wylie, Head, Global Strategic Projects, deugro, said.



dnata replaces airside vehicles with electric cars

More than 65% of all dnata's ground support equipment at Schiphol Airport is now electric. It enhances sustainability efforts by switching to all-electric airside cars. The shift was to reduce CO₂ footprint by 2030. The remaining GSE is fuelled by 100% HVO biofuel, says **Jan van Anrooy, MD, dnata, Netherlands.**

CT Bureau

dnata has made efforts to reduce its carbon footprint by 50% by 2030, as part of its eight-year green operations strategy. The company has taken delivery of 15 electric smart cars, and will soon receive five more, replacing all airside diesel vehicles in its fleet at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport in The Netherlands. This transition follows the installation of airside-based electric vehicle charging infrastructure at AMS, allowing dnata an immediate shift to sustainable transport.

Now more than 65 per cent of dnata's 250 pieces of ground support equipment (GSE) is now electric or powered by solar energy in The Netherlands. The remaining legacy GSE is



Jan van Anrooy
Managing Director
dnata Netherlands

fuelled by 100% hydro-treated vegetable oil (HVO) biofuel, resulting in a 90% reduction in total carbon dioxide emissions throughout its lifecycle. Jan van Anrooy, Managing Director, dnata Netherlands, said: "We are committed to investing in green equipment and infrastructure to

maximise environmental efficiency across our operations. Through close collaboration with our partners, we have promptly leveraged the airport's new infrastructure by replacing our entire car fleet. As a result, over two-thirds

“Now more than 65% of dnata's 250 pieces of GSE is electric or powered by solar energy.”

of our fleet now operates on electric power or solar energy. "We will continue our efforts to further reduce our environ-

mental footprint, contributing to dnata's commitment to reduce global carbon emissions."

Currently, dnata provides ground and cargo handling services to about 37 airlines in Amsterdam with a team of 1,000 dedicated aviation professionals for handling 10,000 flights and move 550,000 tonnes of cargo annually.

Established in 1959, dnata offers quality and safe ground handling, cargo, travel, catering and retail services in over 30 countries. In the financial year 2022-23, dnata's customer-oriented teams handled over 710,000 aircraft turns, moved more than 7 million tonnes of air cargo, lifted 111.4 million meals, and recorded a total transaction value (TTV) of travel services of US\$1.9 billion. 🌱



Cargo experts gather at BBME

The two-day Breakbulk Middle East was a success. More than 8,000 industry professionals, including manufacturers, EPCs, project owners, and transporters among others, took part in the event, which is considered one of the best networking occasions of the season.





IQ Robotics, SPL, AlKhereiji Group unveil new transformation project



IQ Robotics, the pioneering leader in AI-driven and fully automated logistics solutions, announced inking a milestone agreement with Saudi Post Corporation (SPL) and Alkhereiji Group in the field of digital transformation and robotics. The MoU aims to support the expansion of SPL in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Fadi Amoudi, CEO, IQ Robotics, said.

Kezad Group invests AED621 mn, expands warehouse capacity

Kezad Group, the largest operator of integrated and purpose-built economic zones, has commenced expanding warehousing capacity by 250,000 sq.mts., investing AED621 million. This will bring additional capacity of pre-built industrial and logistics facilities online by 2025-end, Mohamed Al Khadar Al Ahmed, CEO, Kezad Group said.



Dubai Customs secures triple ISO certification



Dubai Customs has secured the ISO 37000:2021 Governance Management Standard certification for effective governance. It also got ISO 30414:2018 for the Internal and External Human Capital Reporting System and ISO 56002:2019 for the Innovation Management System, according to a release.

Noatum launches new logistics brand in the Middle East

AD Ports Group has announced Noatum has launched Noatum Logistics Middle East, a new brand that boosts its commitment to delivering market-leading logistics services. The brand takes over from MICCO Logistics that has served Abu Dhabi and the GCC with distinction for over four decades, MICCO Logistics stated.



KSA sets operational guidelines for Bonded Zones



The Saudi Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority has set up new rules for operation of Bonded Zones within KSA. These norms are designed to outline the legal framework for licensing Bonded Zones and to set standards for activities conducted within these areas. The rules clarify the responsibilities of operators and the Authority, as per a statement.

Kuwait Agility's Menzies Aviation acquires 50% stake in JASG

Kuwait-based Agility's Menzies Aviation acquired a 50 per cent stake in Jardine Aviation Services Group (JASG). JASG is a JV of Jardine Matheson with China National Aviation Corporation. Upon completion, it will be rebranded as Menzies CNAC Aviation Services Ltd, Hassan El Houry, Chairman, Menzies Aviation, Menzies, said.



FarCargo delivered first freighter for Salmon Transport Operations



Faroe Islands-based fish farmer Bakkafrost subsidiary FarCargo has taken delivery of its first freighter as it prepares to transport salmon. The new carrier, which closed a deal to purchase Boeing 757-200 last August, received the new aircraft by December-end. "It has been repurposed for cargo operations and can hold cargo weighing 35 tonnes. The aircraft's cargo hull has been modified to hold refrigerated cargo," FarCargo stated. The 757-200 arrived in Copenhagen on January 17 to be shifted to the European flight register—from FAA to European Union Aviation Safety Agency, it stated. The initial flight operation will be in Europe.

2% increase in air cargo handling at Vienna Airport last year

Air cargo handling at Vienna Airport remained stable: more than 172,000 tonnes were handled for transport by cargo or pax aircraft in 2023. This represents a rise of 2 per cent against 2022. Due to the recovery in global air traffic, more belly capacities were available in 2023. This segment was able to grow and overcompensated for decline in transportation by air.



UPS to cut 12,000 jobs to deal with market fluctuations

UPS has announced it will cut 12,000 jobs as part of efforts to reduce costs, considering continuing market weakness. The job cuts would save UPS from a loss worth US\$1 billion per year. UPS is considering selling its Coyote truck brokerage. Most job cuts—75 per cent—will come in the first half of the year, Carol B. Tome, CEO, UPS said.



Belly hold operations returning to full strength: Alaska Air Cargo



Alaska Air Cargo has said its belly hold operations are returning to normal following the grounding of its Boeing 737-9 aircraft on safety grounds this year. The AAC stated the aircraft had passed "rigorous inspections" after the FAA issued an emergency airworthiness directive (EAD) requiring inspections of all 737 Max 9s, the airline stated.

United Kingdom urged to clarify classification of fruit, vegetables



Logistics UK has urged that confusion caused by the government's indication that perishables be addressed and classified as "medium risk" goods for border inspections and publish its assessment of the impact on the UK's supply chain. Nichola Mallon, Logistics Head, Trade, UK, is seeking clarification from the government in this matter.

Movements

OCEAN FREIGHT UAE



Chermaine Chia has joined as the new Global Head of Ocean Freight, UAE, of We-Freight. This move is aimed at enhancing its service offerings in the ocean freight sector. She will take up operational and commercial aspects of the firm.

ABU DHABI AIRPORTS UAE



Elena Sorlini has joined as the new MD and CEO of Abu Dhabi Airports. She transitions into the role after serving in an interim capacity since June 2023. Since joining AUH, she has overseen opening of the Terminal A.

HONEYWELL MEA



Khaled Hashem has joined as the President, Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, Honeywell. In MEA, he will spearhead Honeywell's strategy for the region focusing on driving the firm's global alignment to the three megatrends of automation.

LUFTHANSA CARGO EMEA



Philip Rauchhaus will take over as the Head of region, Deutschland, Austria, Confœderatio Helvetica, Switzerland and key account manager, Lufthansa Cargo. The ex-head of sales Frankfurt will manage the markets of Germany, Austria etc.

GLOBAL CRITICAL LOGISTICS USA



Brent Nagy has been appointed as the Chief Growth Officer of Global Critical Logistics (GCL), live event logistics and high net worth shipping and freight major. He will be working with GCL's existing teams to drive broad-based growth.

DOKASCH GMBH Germany



Martin Kraemer was appointed as the new VP, Sales & Marketing of Dokasch GmbH. He assumes his new position on 1 January at Dokasch, Germany. An expert in air cargo and sales and marketing. He will strengthen the global market.

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- + Discount training for NAFL members
- + Training/Certification for regional/international courses
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ACCREDITATIONS



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