

Middle East's leading cargo monthly

January 2023

CARGO talk

Let's Keep Moving

A large cargo aircraft, possibly a Boeing 747, is shown on a tarmac. The aircraft has a prominent silver nose cone and a blue stripe along the fuselage. The background is a clear blue sky.

EXPECTATIONS

FROM AIR CARGO IN 2023

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CARGO
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EXPECTATIONS FROM AIR CARGO IN THE NEW YEAR

2022 has witnessed a resurgence of air cargo. While passenger aircrafts made a slow and steady recovery from the global pandemic and its variants, it was the cargo operators that held their own. In this scenario **CARGO talk** spoke to industry specialists on how they see the future.

 Abigail Mathias

Glynn Hughes
Director General, The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA)

“ 2022 was an excellent year for TIACA, we moved many of our key programs forward and saw quite an increase in membership and we increased our event portfolio to enhance member engagement. We expanded our regulatory outreach and engagement and participated in many high-level ICAO sessions with senior government officials. We advocated for more support for air cargo at government level, including supportive regulations and flexible operational scenarios. We increased our work to connect with the next generation of work force and participated in many targeted campaigns. And



we were pleased to launch the TIACA BlueSky program, which is the industry's first independent assessment program designed to support organizations journey to sustainable transformation.

From an industry perspective, we were pleased to see increases in innovation and digital connectivity. The investment in P2F conversions and in production freighters will ensure the industry has sufficient capacity available when the current downturn in demand reverses. Another takeaway from 2022 was the challenge that the whole industry is facing when it comes to recruitment and retention of staff. TIACA needs to collectively enhance the value proposition and increase the awareness of what a vital role this industry plays in the global economy and global society.”





Nadia Abdul Aziz
*President, National Association of
Freight and Logistics (NAFL)*

“ From my personal perspective the UAE seems to have strong demand for air cargo. They managed to overcome the COVID negatives and turned it into an opportunity, which in fact our national carriers helped save many lives by deliver-

ing vaccines to more than 80 countries. Our airlines successfully navigated the complex landscape of global logistics and supply chain industry in 2021 by focusing on its niche strengths and values, such as agility and responsiveness, customer focused, innovation, the fleet, and their network capabilities.

Our airlines reinforced their positions as global leaders in the air-freight industry. For example, Emirates Sky Cargo was the first to ensure that its trade lanes remain open by reinstating flights and providing additional capacity on key trade routes across six continents. It has committed unwavering support to many communities in developing countries. Emirates has transported last December more than 600 million COVID vaccines to more than 80 destinations. It has signed an MoU with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and many more organizations to deliver many urgent goods not limited to vaccines but include food, medicines, products used for manufacturing among others. Great deal of food logistics and humanitarian logistics is being moved out of the UAE.

By 2021-end, our national airlines had operated to over 140 destinations making it 90 per cent of its pre-COVID network coverage. I see demand for our humanitarian cargo movements, transshipment cargo, cool chain, and perishable goods air cargo. The geopolitical situation also is increasing more air cargo due to the issues or closure of some ports. I see more cargo flow through the UAE and feel we will reach and exceed our pre-COVID rates hopefully by 2023-2024, despite fuel rates being volatile.



Jason Siy
*Vice President, Cargo Business
Philippine Airlines*

“ IATA is seeing slower traffic rate for 2023 based on their semi-annual report. An expected growth to 43.6 per cent year-on-year to US\$727 billion is mainly driven by higher passenger yield behavior. Freighter activities slowly being

taken again by belly space due to the return of passenger activities, except for Asia. Air Forwarders' Association members remain optimistic despite the flow of volume remaining to be stalled in China. U.S. consumers will have a disproportionately high impact on airfreight demand, especially in the third and fourth quarters of 2023, as inventory levels tick up and global demand for electronics wanes. I think the key question for 2023 is when will the current economic challenges, which have impacted consumers subside? High inflation, high energy costs, and high interest rates have conspired with job insecurity to create defensive patterns in consumer spending. When these influences turn more positive, we can expect to see industry growth resuming. For TIACA, we expect to see further focus on sustainability and people issues.”



Dipen Lalsodagar
*Deputy Director, Cargo Sales,
Global Aviation Services*

“ Although, many trade experts are skeptical of the growth of air cargo in 2023, I feel there would be slow but steady growth of air cargo next year. Seasonality may vary, and certain markets will perform better. Also, digital development will create efficiency for air cargo in future. Sustainable aviation using energy efficient technology will also bring changes in the air cargo transportation.”

Neeraj Agrawal

Executive Director, Crescent Enterprises

“With extreme weather impacting cargo movement and leading to the potential disruption of supply chains coupled with economic challenges and ongoing geopolitical issues, the logistics industry may get off to a bumpy start this year. The rising cost of fuel is weighing on global GDP growth. “Although, most recently we have witnessed benchmark energy prices converge to more ‘normal’ levels, this is often accompanied by a lag due to broad use of commodity price hedging in the industry”, he added. In addition, market volatility will mean businesses must adapt to continued volatility with potential price rises which could lead to more exporters opting for sea freight rather than air freight to cut costs.

To mitigate rising costs and uncertainty, more businesses will be further incentivized to embrace the use of digital technology to enhance operational processes—resulting in faster, accurate, and accessible processing when it comes to cargo documentation. Better data will enhance industry capability by increasing visibility, especially in terms of tracking cargo through the supply chain. “We



will see more investment in the sector, both in terms of improving efficiencies and for environmental sustainability. The global supply chain accounts for 64 per cent of the world’s oil consumption, which means continued investment in critical infrastructure will help enhance efficiencies across global operations.”

The logistics sector has also transformed over the past few years. Agrawal said, “There has been significant investment in the logistics sector over the past few years. Increasing environmental regulations will continue to motivate the industry to reduce carbon emissions. Recently, Momentum Logistics has replaced its entire UAE transportation fleet with innovative, fuel-efficient trucks that raise the company’s productivity and efficiency, while also helping to propel the shift to sustainable transport. The entire fleet of 155 trucks are 100 per cent biofuel capable and with the new units brought on this year there has been a 12.5 per cent reduction of carbon output.” With digital investment expected to reach US\$2.08 trillion (Statista), there is no denying that investing and adopting new technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, and AI will help streamline supply chains and improve operations globally.”



Ashish Asaf

CEO, S.A Consultants & Forwarders

“GMoving towards the decarbonization of air transport sector shall be the priority as we track towards 2030, hence capacity disruptions and cost increases are bound to occur during this period. Hence, there could be an extra demand for space, while older aircrafts and engines go for scrapping or an engine refit to meet the goals related to emission reduction.”

Air freight demand will be offset by the near and medium-term challenges posed by a host of challenges such as inflation, reduced purchasing power, consumption patterns and as well the geopolitical issues in Europe. During this time, probable incremental volumes can arise due to increase in the e-Commerce segment from certain Southeast Asian countries as well from the probable disruptions in the ocean freight due to port congestion or lockdowns.”



Ketan Kulkarni

Chief Commercial Officer, Blue Dart

“Blue Dart will expand its fleet with two Boeing 737s. They are ideal as they can reach smaller airports to increase connectivity and create value for stakeholders. In 2022, the firm signed the UN-FCCC Climate Neutral Now pledge as a step towards its sustainability roadmap, making significant strides towards creating technology that is future-ready, thereby opening the door for stakeholders to accept sustainable logistics that aim to shrink the ecological footprint. With digitization of logistics industry, there will be developments in the coming years as AI, Cloud, automation, Robotics, Block Chain, Big Data, and IoT will be used in logistics, making the smart, while being time-sensitive. The future of logistics indeed is exciting with introduction of drones delivering packages to their destinations among various overhauls within the industry. Businesswise, the people piece of our industry is one that gives the VUCA world we work in, with investments needed in Talent.”



Martin Drew

Senior Vice President, Global Sales & Cargo,
Etihad Aviation Group

“ As 2022 comes to an end, we have seen demand for air cargo soften as compared to 2021. While forecasts have been adjusted downwards, the air cargo sector is still projected to grow and outpace pre-pandemic levels in 2023. We will likely see a reduction in capacity constraints, especially out of the Asia Pacific region. We can expect to see some softening of global yield levels with the return of more belly-hold capacity. However, an imbalance between strong demand and available supply in key cargo origin markets along with a relatively high share of freighter capacity will continue to demand higher yields. Some of the challenges we have faced in 2022 will remain in 2023. We will need to closely monitor macroeconomic factors, high fuel prices, supply shortages and ongoing border and travel restrictions. At Etihad Cargo, we have worked together with stakeholders to manage the circumstances dynamically, focusing on providing capacity on key routes and expanding our network and operations. We have focused on reframing these challenges as opportunities to enhance and improve our products and services, utilizing a proactive and customer-centric approach to dynamically and agility manage these challenges.

We have maintained close relationships with our customers to ensure we can provide innovative solutions to their capacity challenges. However, even with these challenges, tremendous opportunities are available to carriers who are agile, work collaboratively with stakeholders across the sector, and can adapt to evolving market conditions. We are continuously exploring new territories and countries and focusing on our existing network to provide market-leading services based on customer demand. For example, we have recently announced the reinstatement of a twice-weekly freighter service from Shanghai to Abu Dhabi via Chennai. The additional freighter service will provide additional capacity into two key global markets.

Etihad Cargo now operates 79 weekly flights to India and 11 flights per week to mainland China, providing a total capacity of around 2,000 tons from both powerhouses. As we come to the end of 2022 and look ahead to 2023, we will continue to



evaluate new markets and opportunities to grow our offering to our customers as part of Etihad Cargo's wider cargo strategy. The air cargo industry will see growth across many key sectors. Etihad Cargo has identified pharma as a high-growth sector and is investing in infrastructure and new product features to enhance our PharmaLife offering. In the coming year and beyond, the pharmaceutical sector will increasingly feature more personalized medication and treatment, including cell and gene therapy.

With new treatments will come specific packaging and transportation conditions, so the entire supply chain will need to be adaptable and proactive in bringing new solutions to the market. In addition to requiring new packaging, these treatments will bring new urgency and unpredictability, so carriers will need to adapt to seamlessly combine traditional pharma shipping with express



shipping. Etihad Cargo is well-positioned to meet the needs of these new types of therapies and has launched a new pharma cool chain facility at our Abu Dhabi hub. We are also exploring the utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve forecasting and automation to enhance our current capacity and capabilities to support the sector's growth. We are investing in our CEIV Pharma-certified PharmaLife product, introducing enhanced features and solutions to ensure we anticipate and adapt to future trends and requirements.”



Wilson Kwong
Chief Executive, Hactl

“ 2022 has been a challenging year for the global industry, and Hactl is no exception. The combination of inflation, economic adjustments after post-COVID in developed economies that are major consumers of airfreighted goods and anti-COVID curbs affecting Chinese manufacturing and logistics, the Russia-

Ukraine conflict and continuing have caused a drop in airfreight traffic. Even e-Commerce, which seemed to be growing, has slowed down. But while this is disappointing, it is inevitable and to be expected. Airfreight growth could not have continued at the growth rates of 2020 and 2021, much of which was COVID-fueled demand, which was short-term. The long-term trend of air cargo is to grow at the same rate as global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), so 2020-21 should be viewed as a blip and a readjustment was therefore to be expected. ”



Senthil Murugan C
CIO, Fresa Technologies

“ In 2023, automation and AI will make big difference in the air freight industry. Handling sensitive cargo will become easier to manage using the robotic tech. Last-mile delivery of air cargo will be done by drones. Data sharing between the handling agents will become automated using the latest technology. While

every big objective starts with a small step to achieve great movement in 2050, there will be major milestone in 2023. ”



Pervinder Johar
CEO, Blume Global

“ In 2023, AI and Machine Learning (ML) will continue to show great potential as both remain largely untapped. Many applications, with AI/ML, show progress in systemizing information and bringing organizations to the next level. The future of the logistics industry is automation, which currently exists with delivery vehicles, dark warehouses, and some port terminals. But we

must ensure that automation is working in tandem with straight-through processing (STP) and that the systems have the knowledge. For this, we should observe the evolution of visibility post the ongoing recession, as many technologies frequently experience a hype cycle and slowly fades away.

In the future, the enhancements in visibility will make it ubiquitous and part of every supply chain planning and execution system. It will gradually cease to exist as an independent product. This year, more companies adopted technology to streamline their supply chain operations, but we also experiencing the direct and indirect effects of various geo-political issues and the supply chain trade bottlenecks global slowdown. Due to large technology adoption, North America has always been our biggest market.


Our EMEA team is growing with new expansion plans in place, our Asia-Pacific operations continue to grow and maintain a good pipeline of clients in target industries. We hope to finish the year on a strong note. We are working to introduce sophisticated technology to create efficient networks and optimize supply chains for customers at an individual level and, in turn, elevate the entire supply chain industry. ”



Sustainability taking shape in air cargo

The buzz word in aviation is sustainability. We uncover what it means to be truly eco-friendly and how far air cargo industry has reached in getting there. Are they on their way to become fully decarbonized by 2050? Experts give their view point.



 Abigail Mathias

Tim Isik
Vice President Commercial, Etihad Cargo

“Over recent years, sustainability has become a hot topic in the aviation sector, and it will remain a priority for the air cargo sector because it has to. We are responsible for developing and providing more sustainable solutions for our partners and customers, not only for the benefit of our own operations but for the wider industry and the world. The aviation sector is not known for being sustainable.

The world's aviation sector was responsible for 3 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions in 2019, and this could increase to up to 22 per cent of global emissions by 2050. As other sectors decarbonise more quickly, it is critical for the global air cargo community to act now to invest in more sustainable solutions. The global industry's fuel performance improved considerably over the last few decades. The CO₂ consumption per RTK decreased by 54% when comparing 1990 levels to 2018. That was achieved mainly by airlines investing over US\$1 trillion in 15,000 more efficient new-technology aircraft since 2009, airlines and manufacturers developing initiatives to reduce aircraft's frictional resistance, airlines adopting measures to reduce aircraft total weight (light-



weight pallets), and airlines adopting more efficient operational procedures. In line with Abu Dhabi Environment Vision 2030, At Etihad, we are committed to doing our part. Our goal is to achieve zero net carbon emissions by 2050. To do that, we pledge to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in emissions intensity by 2025, and by 2035, we aim to cut 2019 net emissions by 50 per cent. Despite a challenging two years, we have continued delivering on our commitment through various programmes that form our sustainability plan. To accelerate the decarbonization of the air cargo sector, Etihad Cargo has partnered with IATA to co-develop and trial a cargo-specific CO₂ emission calculation tool, which will provide a valuable proof of concept for the cargo component of the IATA CO₂ Connect carbon calculator.

Over the three-month trial, Etihad Cargo will track flights and collect actual data on fuel burn, load factors and other key variables to develop an accurate calculator. Upon launch, IATA's CO₂ Connect carbon calculator will be accessible to the entire industry and will be an effective tool in making the transportation of cargo, including pharmaceuticals, more sustainable. Etihad Cargo became the first middle eastern carrier to join TIACA's BlueSky sustainability verification programme. The first phase of the programme

will allow the carrier to assess its progress against eight critical sustainability criteria via an evidence-based desktop verification process. This will enable us to effectively measure our sustainability efforts, benefiting Etihad Cargo's customers and the wider air cargo industry.

The cargo airline entered into an agreement with B Medical Systems to develop and launch the world's first airline-specific passive temperature-controlled solution for the transportation of life-saving drugs, vaccines, and high-value pharmaceuticals. As these temperature-controlled container units utilize passive cooling technology, they do not require an external power source. They can retain temperatures from -80 to 25°C for five days while still significantly reducing carbon emissions. Additionally, Etihad Cargo replaced 3,000 containers from our original aluminium unit load device (ULD) fleet with environmentally friendly lightweight versions.

On the average wide-bodied flight, utilisation of these lighter ULDs can provide a weight-saving of over 200 kg, which has lowered fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions. In addition to providing more sustainable container options for our customers, Etihad Cargo is also investing in our fleet as part of our decarbonisation strategy, and we have one of the youngest, most innovative, and fuel-efficient fleets in the world. On average, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner is 15-25 per cent more efficient than similar aircraft. By 2023, the 787 will make up more than 50% of our fleet. Under our Sustainable50 programme, we also introduced the innovative Airbus A350-1000 aircraft to our fleet in 2022. Powered by Rolls

Royce WXB, the A350 is more than 1kg lighter than any other Airbus aircraft, and 50 per cent quieter. Recently, Etihad announced that it had firmed up its order for seven new generation 350F. The new freighter promises that it will demonstrate "unbeatable fuel efficiency," with a 40 per cent lower fuel burn and CO₂ emissions than its competitor. The A350F fully meets ICAO's enhanced CO₂ emissions standards coming into effect in 2027.

One of the latest steps Etihad Cargo has taken to reduce carbon emissions is our recent NetZero flight. In partnership with net-zero solutions provider World Energy, we operated the first net zero flight powered entirely by SAF Book & Claim. DSV Global Transport and Logistics became Etihad Cargo's first partner to purchase sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to offset the carbon emissions of its cargo shipment. Via the book and claim system, Etihad Cargo facilitated DSV's SAF purchase, enabling the transport and logistics provider to offset CO₂ emissions and reduce non-CO₂ climate impact. Etihad Cargo transported DSV's cargo shipment from Washington Dulles to Abu Dhabi on Etihad's first transatlantic NetZero flight on 13 November.

This initiative is about proving NetZero commercial aviation is possible and recognizes the significant logistical challenges the industry faces in turning the possible into the routine. At a group level, Etihad was recently named the Environmental Airline of the Year 2022. For Etihad Cargo and Etihad Aviation Group, sustainability is more than just a performative measure — it is a key element of our strategy, and we have demonstrated our commitment through the launch of several programmes and initiatives. ”



Jason Siy
*Vice President Cargo Business,
Philippine Airlines*

“ The sustainable efforts taken by his carrier include the transformation of the processes to digital, resulting to less paperwork for transactions. E-AWBs. 193 ICAO Member States adopted a collective long-term global aspirational goal

(LTAG) of delivering net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Enhanced efficiency measures across the industry (eg aircraft operations, flight routing); Accelerated energy transition (that is, increased production, deployment and use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF)); and ongoing innovation across the aviation sector (eg new and innovative aircraft and engine technology). Philippine Airlines Sustainability plans introduced in 2022 with industry expert consultation sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

The ground services provider has also continued efforts to optimise resources and reduce its environmental footprint across its global network. Most recently, it has installed renewable energy tech, such as solar panels, heat recovery units and electric vehicle charging, at its existing facilities in the United Kingdom and Singapore. dnata will also incorporate carbon reduction initiatives in the construction and operation of its new cargo centres in Iraq and Netherlands. ”



Greg Foran
CEO, Air New Zealand

“ The flag carrier of New Zealand, Air New Zealand, recently unveiled plans to collaborate with four innovators to build its first zero-emissions demonstrator flight. The aim is to fly zero-emissions cargo or passenger aircraft from 2026. Mission NextGen Aircraft is not about

backing one innovator. It's about working with a range of leaders in zero-emissions aircraft technology to help move the whole ecosystem along. ”





Bhupinder Singh

CEO, Messe Muenchen India, organiser of air cargo Africa 2023

“ The global air cargo market is expected to return to profitability in 2023 despite a downturn in freight volumes owing to a slowdown in international trade, as per IATA. Despite these global trends, the African air cargo market looks promising as indicated by the launch of new carriers, fast adoption of technology, and increasing consumer demand throughout the continent. This makes us hopeful that air cargo Africa 2023 will amplify the existing legacy of the exhibition by attracting newer players, institutional service suppliers across consumer verticals, and a massive community of traders, importers, and exporters from South Africa and its adjacent markets. The air cargo industry



has undergone a seismic shift over the years, culminating in its powerful performance during the pandemic. Technology-driven processes that foster seamless trans-border trade combined with strong leadership among carriers, freight forwarders, and various service suppliers in the industry have refined the air cargo business model, making it safe, efficient, and cost-effective to transport by air, rather than any other medium. However, there is much room for improvement, especially when it comes to aligning interests in newer markets and innovating for sustainability and emissions reduction. Through our deep understanding of and experience with the global cargo industry, we at Messe Muenchen India are confident of enabling meaningful handshakes and unlocking business opportunities at air cargo Africa 2023, to be held on 21-23, February 2023, at the Emperors Palace, Johannesburg.”



Frank Bernthaler

CEO, Admiral Mobility

“ Our effort is to encourage sustainability so customers who are more inclined towards it are our primary target consumers. The company introduced Electric Consumer Vehicles in the GCC market. With COP28 fast approaching and sustainability being high on everyone’s agendas, this partnership is an important step forward to build a robust, EV truck portfolio in the region. As we transition towards more environmentally friendly energy and transportation solutions, we are proud to play a key role in building an infrastructure that empowers the government’s electrification strategy, and we are looking forward to supporting businesses as they move towards electric vehicles in the region. ”



Saurabh Bhalla

Managing Director, Air and Sea Logistics

“ The airline industry is having a fair number of new players emerging into the market. Traditional shipping lines such as Maersk and MSC have started air operations. These are going to be some interesting times for the freight forwarding industry. Airlines have started offering forwarding services such as customs clearance for inbound and outbound shipments. With the reliance on dock bookings the agents are moving towards 24-hour shifts as the GHA is trying to push bookings more after office hours. ”





UAE to host **WTO** conference in 2024

UAE will host 13th WTO Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi to usher in progress of multilateral global trading system. It reflects the growth the country has achieved that is central to unleash new era of sustainability and logistics.

 CT Bureau

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was announced as the host of the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The foremost deliberation body of the WTO, which meets once every two years, will be coming to Abu Dhabi in Q1 2024, placing the UAE at the heart of the conversations that will shape the immediate future of global trade and logistics.

MC13 is being regarded as one of the most pivotal in the WTO's recent history. After the successes of the MC12, which reached landmark

multinational agreements on issues such as pandemic preparedness, intellectual property rights, the removal of food export prohibitions and fisheries subsidies, in what has become known as "The Geneva Package", MC13 is now the opportunity to finally introduce impactful reform to the WTO itself – and usher in a new wave of measures that will safeguard the future of the body as a credible custodian of the multilateral trading system.

His Excellency Abdulla Bin Touq, Minister of Economy, said, "The WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference reflects the

UAE's status as a key facilitator of trade and investment between all four corners of the world. It is also the culmination of the qualitative leaps that the UAE has achieved in terms of economic growth and diversification over recent decades, which has been central to our bold vision to unleash a new era of sustainable economic development.

"The leadership of the UAE has placed trade front and center of our new economic vision, recognizing its role as a catalyst to logistics growth, inward investment, talent attraction and social, cultural, and industrial development. Our Com-



prehensive Economic Partnership Agreements with India, Israel and Indonesia, and those with other economies will be signed in the coming months. These reflect our belief in our commitment to creating new opportunities for our exporters, industrialists, manufacturers and investors. An event as significant as MC13 will position the UAE as a contributor to rejuvenating international trade, which is critical to unlocking long-term, sustainable growth around the world.”

His Excellency Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, said, “Hosting the WTO Ministerial Conference in the UAE reflects the country’s growing influence on global trade as well as our commitment to galvanizing international efforts to overcome economic challenges. Under the directives of our leadership, we are strengthening relations with the international community to accelerate trade growth, investment flows, and sustainable development around the world.

“The UAE is transforming its economy, accelerating its in-

dustrial output, integrating advanced technology to foster the industries of the future, and developing new capabilities in sectors such as renewable energy, and space exploration. We need an efficient, regulated and digitally enabled global trading system to fully capitalize on these opportunities, and we are eager to take a lead on the discussions that will shape the future of trade. MC13 provides an ideal platform for the UAE to engage the international trading community to help build more resilient, effective supply chains.”

His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, urged the global trading community at the WTO’s General Council meeting in October to strengthen the body’s role as a forum for trade negotiation and rulemaking, reinvigorate its dispute resolution and arbitration functions, embrace digitalization and strategic digital trade policies, and address market-distorting subsidies, while protecting the interests of emerging nations.

“Trade and logistics have shaped the UAE’s history and now we have the chance to shape the future of trade. MC13 has the potential to deliver meaningful reform for the WTO and help it reclaim its role as the sole, authoritative custodian of global trade. We look forward to welcoming the leadership of the WTO’s 164 member states and taking a prominent role in re-energizing the global trading and logistics system, future proofing them for the 21st century and ensuring it remains an engine of inclusive, sustainable economic development,” said His Excellency Al Zeyoudi.

His Excellency Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister



H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq
Minister of Economy



H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
Minister of State for Foreign Trade

UAE leadership has trade front on pedestal and has economic vision at its centre, recognizing its role as a catalyst

of State for Financial Affairs, added, “Hosting the WTO’s 13th Ministerial Conference underlines the UAE’s position as a global business center, a vital gateway to trade and investment, and a major contributor to the future of the multilateral trading system. The UAE’s new foreign trade agenda is ensuring the country is taking an active international role not only in the free flow of goods and services, but in the creation of new opportunities and frameworks for investment, all of which will have an important stimulative effect on the global macroeconomic landscape. As supply chains recover from the impact of the pandemic, enhancing the efficiency of global trade is of critical importance. Through the WTO, the UAE will seek to pursue progressive policy initiatives that smooth cross-border payments, reduce risk, and ensure inclusive access to

Trade has shaped the history of the country and now, we have the chance to shape the future of global trade

IN SHORT

- We look forward to welcoming the WTO’s 164 member states and re-energizing the global trading system.
- The meet reflects UAE’s status as a facilitator of trade and investment in four corners of the world.



H.E. Sultan Al Jaber
Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology



H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini
Minister of State for Financial Affairs

Under directives of our leadership, we are boosting ties with global community to accelerate trade growth

As supply chains recover from COVID impact, enhancing the efficiency of global trade is of vital importance

the global trading system for developing economies around the world.”

His Excellency Mohammed Ali Al Shorafa, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, averred, “Having been chosen to host the WTO Conference is testament to the UAE and Abu Dhabi’s reputation as credible, neutral, and successful global facilitator of trade and commerce. We pledge to continue to uphold the WTO’s ethos, to ensure a world where trade flows freely and to fight for a fair, equitable and more open rule-based system for all. We shall push for progressive liberalization of trade in services, reject all forms of protectionism and discrimination, and boost transparency.”

Over the decades, the capital of the UAE has led the drive to make the country the attrac-

tive and dynamic global business destination it is today. We have ensured uninterrupted trade inflows and outflows and we have unearthed opportunities for everyone. These efforts will continue, especially as we roll out our federal plans for building and perfecting a “Falcon Economy”, based on sustainability. This means a growing, prosperous, liberalized, and diversified economy driven by a strategic vision, structural transformations, and counter-cyclical monetary and fiscal policies, resulting in circular growth and development. Abu Dhabi looks forward to in-depth discussions, analyses and resolutions to the problems facing the world.

His Excellency Jassim Mohammed Buataba Al Zaabi, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Finance Department, observed, “Hosting the MC13 is a noteworthy achievement, one that underscores the UAE’s reputation as a leading global center guiding responsible financial services and monetary policies needed for complementing the global trade and commerce mix. The country’s financial sector plays a vital role on the global stage alongside others and ensures the world’s economies continue to be inter-connected.”

His Excellency Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman, Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi, said, “Abu Dhabi is proud to be hosting the meet. Being a WTO member, the decision to host their ministerial meetings in the capital, cements Abu Dhabi as a destination of choice with the capacity and capabilities in convening globally significant conventions. Our geographical position in the world has been a crossroad for trade throughout the ages and hosting the WTO’s meet-





Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi
 Chief Executive Officer
 Abu Dhabi Ports

ings is only befitting to be here, in Abu Dhabi. We continue to work with our strategic partners to mobilize the UAE's trade arm to be a key player globally to regulate trade policies for the future to ensure a stable global economy."

His Excellency Ahmed Abdullah bin Lahej Al Falasi, Director General, Customs, Federal Authority for Identity, Nationality, Customs and Ports Security, said, "Abu Dhabi's hosting of the WTO Ministerial Conference is an opportunity for the UAE to mobilize global efforts, modernize, and develop the global trading system, essential to increasing its efficiency and resilience. It also confirms the country's centrality to the free flow of goods around the world, particularly as a vital bridge between Asia, Europe, and Africa. The free flow of goods and services, based on clear and enforceable rules, is a vital tool for inclusive economic growth."

Rashed Al Blooshi, Undersecretary, Abu Dhabi Department for Economic Development, added, "Hosting the conference in Abu Dhabi underlines the city's status not only as a global meeting place but also as one of the most important industrial, investment and trade hubs in the world. Abu

Dhabi is committed to the development of trade. With the capital recently announcing industrial strategy, we are ready to welcome the custodians of global trade."

Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori, Director General, General Administration of Customs, added "The conference is one of the most important platforms to help determine the future of the multilateral trading system and its presence in Abu Dhabi will enable the UAE to play an important role in shaping its agenda, from technological integration to enhanced dispute resolution. The UAE continues to champion multilateral trade and enhance cross-border relations; the recently enacted law granting customs exemption for specific imported materials is proof of our efforts towards helping make the world a better place, and we will continue our work on this path."

Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO, Abu Dhabi Ports, emphasized, "This is a significant announcement for Abu Dhabi as well as the UAE. In recent years, Abu Dhabi has emerged as a global leader in logistics and industry, with our ports pioneering new solutions that facilitate the faster, more efficient movement of goods. The conference will help confirm the city's position on the global

trading map and elevate our voice in matters of regulation, governance, and innovation."

Humaid Matar Al Dhaheri, MD, and Group CEO, AD-NEC Group, said, "The UAE is a leading strategic hub for global trade, and Abu Dhabi is at the forefront of driving greater sustainable development for the business tourism industry, which highlights its dynamic position regionally. ADNEC is proud to support the UAE bid for hosting the WTO's meetings. In collaboration with national partners across the public and private sectors, we aim to deliver an edition which reflects the UAE's position, both regionally and globally."

The Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) is recognized as preferred destination for hosting mega global events. It is spread over an area of 153,000 sq. mt. We look forward to the opportunity of welcoming WTO delegations to the UAE." The WTO ministerial conference will be held in Abu Dhabi in the first quarter of 2024. It will follow the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28), enabling the UAE to play a significant role in driving dialogue and action across the world's most pressing global issues. 🌍

It is a significant announcement for the UAE and confirms Abu Dhabi's position on the global trading map

IN A NUTSHELL

- Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre will be the venue of the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference.
- Spread over 153,000 sq. mt, the WRO meet will be held after the Conference of the Parties (COP 28).

Future technology vital for growth of **logistics, aviation**

Dubai Future Labs signs agreements with Emirates, DP World and dnata, aiming to transform Dubai into one of the top 10 international cities for robotics and automation by adopting and developing advanced technologies.



We are delighted to expand our partnership to deploy robotics solutions, use advanced technologies and AI across our business areas

 CT Bureau

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman, Executive Council of Dubai and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Dubai Future Foundation, witnessed the signing of three partnership agreements by Dubai Future Labs (DFL), an initiative of Dubai Future Foundation (DFF), with Emirates Airlines, DP World, and dnata.

The three agreements aim to deploy advanced future technologies across aviation and logistics—two vital non-oil sectors for Dubai and the UAE.

It aims to transform Dubai into one of the top 10 international cities for robotics and automation (R&A) by adopting and developing robotics technologies, empowering national talent, and creating new solutions, products, and services to drive the sector's growth.

These partnerships aim to activate the Dubai Robotics and Automation Program launched last September to boost the development, testing and adoption of robotics and automation and accelerate its deployment in key economic sectors. The program focuses on advancing research and development (R&D) in

five areas in the sector—Production and Manufacturing; Consumer Services and Tourism; Healthcare and Connected Mobility, and Logistics.

Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications and Deputy Managing Director, Dubai Future Foundation, Sultan bin Sulayem, Chairman and CEO, DP World, Adel Ahmed Al Redha, CEO, Emirates Airlines, Steve Allen, Group CEO, dnata Group, and Khalfan Belhouli, CEO, Dubai Future Founda-

tion witnessed the signing of the agreements.

Omar Sultan Al Olama said these three partnerships will contribute to strengthening Dubai and the UAE's position as a living laboratory for advanced technologies and innovations. These pacts will advance the leadership's vision to make our nation a global destination for partnerships, R&D, and innovation that can shape the future, he said.

"Deploying robotics, automation and future technologies in key sectors enhances economic diversification and raises Dubai's long-term competitiveness as a platform for launching businesses and enabling international trade with cutting-edge logistical services," the Minister said.

Dubai Future Labs' MoU with DP World includes several phases and projects. The main project to be undertaken as part of the MoU is aimed at developing smart, autonomous electric vehicles (E-CAVs) for terminal operations that can serve as a more sustainable, reliable, efficient, and safer alternative. The MoU also focuses on promoting R&D in built-for-purpose systems and commercializing it to increase the safety and efficiency of DP World's global operations, in addition to supporting the group's carbon reduction and sustainability objectives.

Under the MoU, Dubai Future Labs, will facilitate the research, testing and implementation of new technologies for logistics operations, and develop future technologies that incorporate AI, Robotics, Data Analysis and Blockchain. The solutions planned to be developed include automated and smart systems for trans-

porting, handling, and storing goods across port operations.

Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem said the pact is of strategic importance and comes at a time when it is critical to enhance supply chain efficiencies.

"DP World and Dubai Future Foundation will explore the

are exploring the deployment of metaverse solutions across our operations to solve real-world supply chain bottlenecks," he said.

Emirates is redoubling efforts to overhaul its warehouse management system by deploying automated solutions. Working with DFL across R&D and R&A



potential for achieving breakthroughs in various fields by integrating with smart government system and spurring development and innovation to transform the UAE into an advanced digital and smart economy. As a leading trade enabler, we are at the forefront of developing and adopting disruptive technologies," said Sulayem.

"Our goal is to cement Dubai's position as a digitally advanced global trade hub. With our next-generation technologies and solutions, including hyperloop and automated warehouse stacking as well as initiatives such as Dubai Trade, Cargoes, Searates and Digital Freight Alliance, we are indeed reshaping the future of trade and logistics. Keeping pace with the rapid evolution of technology, we

projects, Emirates will test and implement initiatives to increase the efficiency of internal processes and advance its sustainability and environmental goals. The airlines will work with DFL to develop autonomous baggage transport and autonomous pallets for cargo warehousing, helping to make operations safer, and more efficient and reliable.

Adel Al Redha said, "We are delighted to expand our partnership to deploy robotics solutions, use advanced technologies and AI across our business areas in Emirates Engineering, Dubai International Airport and ramp operations. This will give Emirates opportunity to gain from DFF's pool of experts, who will work with practical use cases and knowledge from the airline to enhance day to day ops." 🚀

IN SHORT

- The pacts aim to deploy advanced techs across aviation and logistics in two vital non-oil sectors in Dubai and UAE.
- Robotics and future techs in key sectors enhances economic diversification.

First NetZero flight takes off

To reduce impact of carbon emissions, Etihad cargo's partner DSV has bought sustainable aviation fuel to bring down emissions of its cargo. The airline is targeting bring down 20% in intensity of carbon emissions by 2025.



 CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Aviation Group, has announced that DSV Global Transport and Logistics has become the carrier's first partner to purchase sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to offset the carbon emissions of its cargo shipment.

Etihad Cargo facilitated DSV's SAF purchase, via the book and claim system, enabling the transport and logistics provider to offset CO₂ emissions and reduce non-CO₂ climate impact. Etihad Cargo transported DSV's cargo shipment from Washington to Abu Dhabi on Etihad's first transatlantic Net Zero flight on 13 November.


Etihad's Boeing 787 'Greenliner' combined SAF with contrail prevention technology from its partner, SATAVIA, to manage carbon emissions and non-CO₂ climate effects from contrails, or condensation trails, which cause surface warming and are responsible

for up to two-thirds of aviation's climate impact.

Martin Drew, Senior VP, Global Sales & Cargo, Etihad Aviation Group, said, "Etihad was recently named the Environmental Airline of the Year, and Etihad Cargo is committed to providing solutions that enable its partners and customers to achieve their sustainability ambitions. Etihad Cargo is witnessing focus on sustainable air cargo from customers, who are seeking to establish partnerships that provide SAF utilisation, carbon offset initiatives and management of non-CO₂ climate impact.

Etihad Cargo's partnership with DSV to transport cargo utilising the SAF book and claim system has showcased the power of collaboration and demonstrated the future of Net Zero aviation. The successful delivery of DSV's shipment has proved Net Zero air cargo operations are possible and is the first step in transforming the possible into the routine."

Offering partners and customers the option to transport cargo more sustainably via the SAF book and claim system is the latest step in Etihad Cargo's sustainability journey. In alignment with the Abu Dhabi Environment Vision and Etihad Aviation Group's sustainability strategy, Etihad Cargo has pledged to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050. The carrier is targeting a 20 per cent reduction in carbon emissions intensity by 2025 and aims to cut 2019 net emissions to 50 per cent by 2035.

Demonstrating its commitment to achieving sustainability, Etihad Cargo became the first M.E. carrier to join the TIACA's BlueSky verification program, enabling the carrier to assess its progress against eight sustainability criteria via an evidence-based desktop verification process. IATA and Etihad Cargo will use the world's first cargo-dedicated CO₂ emissions calculation tool to manage and report on sustainability progress to provide the entire value chain. 



Martin Drew
Senior Vice President, Global Sales & Cargo, Etihad Aviation Group

IATA and Etihad Cargo will use the world's first cargo-dedicated CO₂ emissions calculation tool to report on sustainability

Pact to produce **commercially viable** SAF for reducing CO₂

Agreement between Neste and Airbus builds on cooperation in ECLIF3 research project. Both parties recognise importance of Net Zero emissions of 2050, which require fuel-efficient technologies and improved operations and deploy usage of SAF.

 CT Bureau

Neste and Airbus have signed a pact to advance the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in the aviation sector. Both parties share a vision that SAF is a key solution to helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions of air travel. Reaching the aviation industry's ambitious "NetZero carbon emissions by 2050" goal, requires different measures to be deployed, including fuel-efficient aircraft technologies, improved operations, and ground infrastructures, as well as deployment of SAF.

Both the parties recognise the fact that one of the biggest challenges in accelerating SAF use is the ramp-up of SAF production. This collaboration is laying the foundation for Airbus and Neste to explore business opportunities together and promote the production and use of SAF. The focus will be on the technical development of SAF, testing of current, and future production technologies and investigating how 100 per cent use of SAF can be enabled.

"Neste is at the forefront of accelerating the aviation sector's journey to a more sustainable future. That journey

requires cooperation across the industry's value chain. This collaboration with Airbus connects a pioneer in the aerospace industry with a leader in renewable fuels. The


SAF, stimulating the creation of a commercially viable market for renewable aviation fuels," said Julie Kitcher, EVP Communications, Sustainability and Corporate Affairs,



combined knowledge and expertise of the companies will help advance the use and availability of SAF as a means of transitioning aviation towards more sustainable energy sources and reducing the climate impact of aviation," said Thorsten Lange, Executive Vice President, Renewable Aviation, Neste.

"At Airbus, we believe SAF is one of aerospace's most promising decarbonisation solutions that can be used in both in-service aircraft fleets and those of tomorrow. We are proud to partner with Neste and drive forward the development and uptake of

Airbus. "All Airbus aircraft are certified for flying with up to 50% SAF, and this partnership will be vital to reach certification for 100 per cent SAF by the end of the decade."

The agreement builds on the cooperation in the ECLIF3 research project, the world's first in-flight emissions study using 100 per cent SAF on a wide-body commercial passenger aircraft, with Rolls-Royce and German research centre DLR. Following this, Airbus and Neste will be working on the technical aspects of the challenge to reach the 100 per cent SAF certification. 

Focus will be on technical aspects of SAF, fuel approval and testing of production techs and probing how use of SAF can be enabled

Decline in air cargo demand year-on-year: TIACA

Amidst market uncertainty, shippers are choosing shorter-term deals as they wait to see how the business trends unfold in the coming months. Distribution of contract rates for shippers shows commitments of over three-month contracts hardly exist in Q4 this year.



Global summary of the general air freight market in November 2022			
Region	Dynamic loadfactor		
	Jun '22 <i>Abs. in %</i>	vs Jun '21 <i>Change in p.pts</i>	vs Oct '22 <i>Change in p.pts</i>
Global	61%	- 4.9%	- 0.2%
Outbound:			
Asia Pacific	70%	- 7.3%	- 1.0%
North America	54%	- 1.2%	+ 1.5%
Europe	69%	- 5.0%	- 0.9%
Middle East & Central Asia	56%	- 8.0%	+ 1.3%
Latin America	60%	- 5.4%	- 3.2%
Africa	50%	- 0.1%	+ 0.3%

Source: CLIVE Data Services

CT Bureau

Freight forwarders are adopting 'wait and watch' approach before making long-term cargo capacity commitments as airlines saw demand drop 2 per cent month-over-month in November as general airfreight volumes dipped for ninth consecutive month, dashing hopes of a late peak season boost, as per the latest weekly market by CLIVE Data Services, part of Xeneta.

Chargeable weight in November was —8 per cent versus the same month of 2021, although

the 1 per cent reduction in global air cargo capacity—as airlines adapted to winter schedules—contributed to a 'dynamic load factor' of 61 per cent, on par with the previous month, based on the volume and weight perspectives of cargo flown and capacity available.

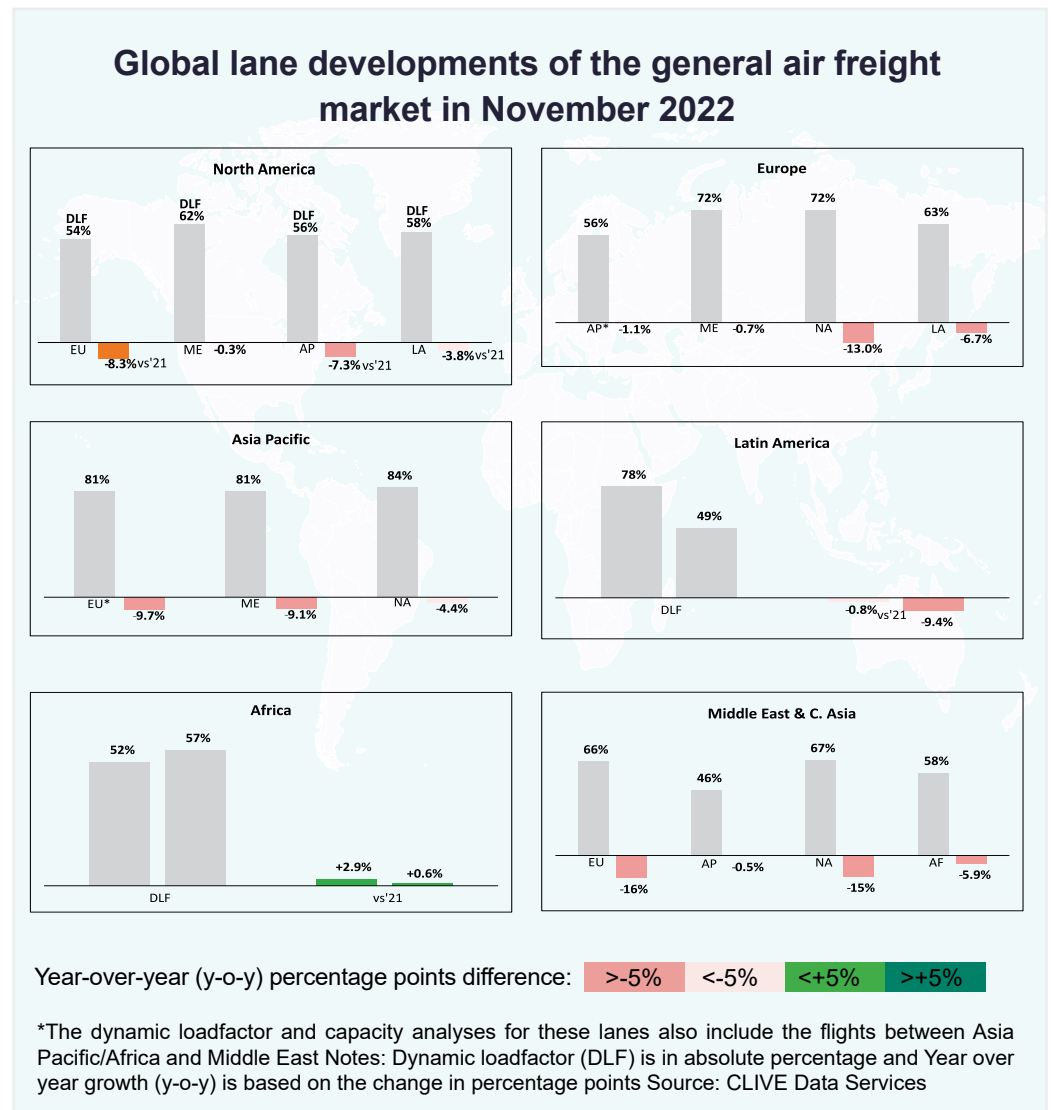
Load factor continued to sit well below last year's extraordinary peak season. For instance, Europe to North America load factor in the week leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday sat at 74 per cent this year, down 12 per cent from the same week last year.

Amidst so much market uncertainty, industry parties are increasingly choosing shorter-term deals as they wait to see how the business trends unfold in the coming months. Distribution of contract rates for shippers shows commitments of over three-month contracts hardly exist in Q4 this year.

“What we are seeing is a lot of uncertainty still. After such a big drop of —8 per cent in air cargo demand in October, we saw a little stability return in November, so the market is not worsening, it is hard to read longer-term. This is reflected in the rise in short-term contracts, with the forwarders unwilling to commit to long-term deals.

Shippers should see some benefit from this in terms of their air and ocean budgets and falling rates may provide one glimmer of hope for cash-strapped consumers that potentially lower shipping costs in 2023 will make some goods more affordable. There are still so many influencing factors to consider, including the depreciation of the US Dollar and its impact on trade,” said Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer, Xeneta.

At Xeneta’s latest Customer Summit for ocean carriers, the airlines, forwarders and shippers, there was a consensus among delegates that consumers will spend less on goods in 2023 than they did in 2022, he said, indicating a slow start to next year, said van de Wouw. In comparison to last year, the global average rate for general air cargo declined for a third consecutive month in November, falling to a level last seen in October 2020. However, average rates remained 85 per cent above the pre-COVID level despite the air cargo spot rates



falling across the top three volume corridors in November.

The average November air cargo spot rate on the transpacific corridor of US\$5.82 per kg was down 32 per cent in comparison to last year, but still 139 per cent above the 2019 level. On the same corridor, ocean freight rates fell even more sharply, a decline of around 79 per cent over the same month last year, recovering close to the pre-COVID period (only 30 per cent above the 2019 level), which may trigger a shift from air cargo to ocean as the sea freight market chaos eases.

On the East Asia to North Europe corridor, November’s

average air cargo spot rate was US\$5.86 per kg. Impacted by the persistent war in Ukraine, this represented a 16 per cent year-over-year decline. Again, the ocean market witnessed a far greater fall as container freight rates fell 78 per cent over the last year.

Lastly, the air cargo spot rate from North Europe to the USA East stood at US\$3.23 per kg in November, down 37 per cent from last year’s level. Ocean freight rates climbed 10 per cent from the same period of 2021, 3.5 times the 2019 level, making this the only routing among the top three volume corridors where the market remains somewhat competitive. 🍷

Load factor, however, continued to sit well below last year’s extraordinary peak season



Bringing **transparency** in computing emissions

IATA and Travalyst have joined forces with the aim of providing consumers with a calculation of their carbon footprint from air travel. This new collaboration will bring transparency and accuracy on how a traveler's carbon footprint is calculated.

 CT Bureau

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Airlines for Europe (A4E) urged EU Transport Ministers to agree to recommendations for European air traffic management (ATM) at their meeting in December. The aim was to deliver environmental improvements and submit its performance to review from an independent regulatory authority.

IATA and Travalyst have joined forces with the aim of providing consumers with a consistent, accurate calculation of their carbon footprint from air travel. As all sectors of the aviation and travel industries come together in pursuit of NetZero CO2 goals, this new collaboration effort will bring greater transparency, accuracy, and consistency to

how a traveler's carbon footprint is calculated.

Travalyst and IATA possess a deep understanding of the traveler as well as relevant technical and operational expertise, which will enable the duo to collaborate closely to align carbon emission calculations. This collaboration will focus on both data and standard methodology for route-based passenger CO2 emissions calculations for aviation at scale. This will include a shared position on how to account for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

"Consumers want to understand the environmental impact of their travels. Both Travalyst and IATA are continuously working to improve their methodologies by incorporating emerging knowledge of climate impacts. So, we are


working to-gether to provide the consumer with easy access to consistent calculations of the environmental cost of their travel," said Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA.

Lastly, EU Transport Ministers met on 5 December 2022 to agree to their position on ATM for negotiations with the European Parliament. These discussions focus on a 2020 proposal from the European Commission, which calls for a fully independent regulator to assess the performance of the various European Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs). EU member states have rejected this. The European Parliament, in line with the proposal, has pushed for tougher rules, but airlines fear a last-minute compromise will enable states to be judge and jury on the targets for their own ANSPs. 

EU Commission proposals were clear that nations should not be marking the homework of their own airline service providers

Etihad Cargo expands into newer markets

Latest addition to Etihad Cargo's network follows the introduction of twice-weekly direct flights to Guangzhou. Etihad Cargo has continuously reviewed its global network, adding destinations and frequencies, and is optimising freighter utilisation to support key trade lanes and customer demand.

 CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo, the cargo, and logistics arm of Etihad Aviation Group, has reinforced its commitment to expand into newer markets, reinstating a twice-weekly freighter service from Shanghai to Abu Dhabi via Chennai starting 8 December. The additional freighter service will provide additional capacity into two key global markets.

“This latest addition to Etihad Cargo's network follows the introduction of twice-weekly direct flights to Guangzhou. With the introduction of this destination to the carrier's network, Etihad Cargo became

the first international airline to operate long-haul cargo and passenger services to the top three Chinese gateways — Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou — since the beginning of the pandemic,” said Martin Drew, Senior Vice President Global Sales & Cargo at Etihad Aviation Group.

In addition to expanding operations in China and India, Etihad Cargo has continuously reviewed its global network, adding destinations and frequencies, and is optimising freighter utilisation to support key trade lanes and customer demand. The expansion is as part of Etihad Cargo's commitment to supporting this key market, the carrier has opened freighter capacity from Chennai to support increased demand

Etihad Cargo's network follows the introduction of twice-weekly direct flights to Guangzhou and Shanghai. This is apart from Beijing

from customers in the region. “The Indian market is currently booming. The country's industrial production is increasing, and manufacturing output is rebounding, driven by increases in the production of machinery and equipment, motor vehicles and metals, among others,” he added. 🇮🇳

IN SHORT

- The freighter service will provide additional capacity into two key global markets.
- Etihad Cargo is reviewing its global network, adding to destinations, and optimising freighter utilisation.



Global Aviation Showcase

MEBAA 2022 Show, widely regarded as the foremost aviation and air cargo platform in the Middle East saw a gathering of players from cargo and aviation industry from as many as 95 countries. The ninth edition of the show was held from 6-8 December 2022 at DWC.








Emphasis on aviation's ability to adopt newer tech

Middle East aviation show focuses on how digitalization, new technologies and innovation are driving the business aviation industry forward. Two days of the exhibition saw many announcements and signings following the growth forecast for aviation sector.

 CT Bureau

The MEBA Show 2022, was held at Dubai Airshow site (DWC), with key players from across the business aviation industry using the event as a platform to make announcements and signings.

Ali Ahmed Alnaqbi, Founding and Executive Chairman, the Middle East & North Africa Business Aviation Association (MEBA), said, "The aviation show is providing a platform for the global business aviation industry to come together to build on partnerships and form new connections that will drive the sector forward.

Across the first two days, we have seen a series of key announcements and new signings as our community takes advantage of the huge growth that is predicted for the sector. Organizations are looking at how they can incorporate new aircraft, technology, and innovation into their current ops."

Day two saw a series of key announcements and signings. RoyalJet and Honeywell signed a letter of intent (LoI) to extend the current Ka-band connectivity services, Saudia Private Aviation (SPA) signed an MoU with Redstar, and there was a press conference where VPorts announced a partnership with UAE General Civil Aviation

Authority (GCAA) and the Mohammed bin Rashid Aerospace Hub (MBRAH) at Dubai South to establish the world's first AAM integrator world centre in Dubai. Saudia Aerospace Engineering Industries (SAEI) signed four agreements during the second day, with Airbus Helicopter Arabia, Alpha Star Aviation Services, Ubisense and The Helicopter Company (THC).

These followed from a series of day one announcements, where Airbus Corporate Jets (ACJ) signed a partnership agreement with Citadel Completions LLC to enter the ACJ Services Centre Network, the MBRAH signed four agree-

Carbon emissions will be offset by purchasing and retiring offset credits from Air bp target neutral's offset portfolio

ments with Empire Aviation Group, Athena Security, Khaleej Aerospace Industries and Airline Support Baltic, and there was the official contract signing of the DC Aviation G-OPS joint venture for the opening of a brand new FBO at Nice Airport, among others.

Future aviation sessions included a joint presentation, “Stay ahead of the curve with cryptocurrencies”, from Robert Plhak, CEO of VOO, and Gernot Winter, CEO of AVI-NOC. This focused on how readiness and adaptability in this quickly evolving technological landscape is crucial in today’s marketplace, assessing the purchasing methods of tomorrow’s customers and benefits providing flexible payment methods.

Winter said, “It is not just about cryptocurrency, it is about tokenisation as a whole, and the real goal is to connect the real world—the business aviation world—with the crypto world.” He continued by sharing examples of how tokenisation and blockchain technology

can be used within the future of the aviation industry, not just through payment, but also loyalty programmes, aircraft ownership, security for airlines and airports, MRO solutions, ticketing, identity management and much more.

James Dorris and Axel Radermacher, Co-founders, Odys Aviation, presented at BizAv Talks with their session on ‘Assessing early adopters of the eVTOL revolutions’, which focussed on how eVTOLs will provide a fast alternative to congested city travel and assess how businesses can win over and retain high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs).

Continuing the theme of technology and future aviation, Alberto Carlos Pereira, CEO & Partner, Tupan Aircraft, said, “The show gives us the opportunity to combine the vision of our long-range and high-speed drone cargo transportation solution with the UAE’s Strategic Vision for 2071. Together we can develop and test disruptive and innovative solutions for point-to-point cargo services. I am looking forward

to interesting discussions that the professional environment of the MEBAA show 2022 makes possible.”

Sustainability has remained a key theme throughout the ninth edition of the show—and a huge focus for the sector. This year, the MEBAA show has worked with Air bp as the carbon offsetting sponsor for the show. A spokesperson from the Air bp target neutral team commented, “With support from Air bp, the MEBAA Show 2022 organizers have been looking at ways to reduce carbon emissions from the show and have shared this information with Air bp. As the carbon offsetting sponsor for the MEBAA Show 2022, Air bp will offset any remaining calculated carbon emissions via bp’s carbon management business and bp target neutral.

“Emissions will be offset by purchasing and retiring offset credits from bp target neutral’s offset portfolio. This offset credit purchase in turn will help compensate for the emissions associated with the event space, promotional materials.”

AT A GLANCE

- The show is serving as a platform for the aviation industry to come together to build on partnerships.
- With support from Air bp, the show organizers have been looking at ways to reduce CO₂ emissions.



Thumbs up to dnata

Top management of Cathay Pacific Cargo recognized the team of dnata for its exemplary ground handling services at a glittering event in Dubai World Central. **CARGO talk** team was there to capture the proceedings of the event.





Road transportation to turn 'green' soon

Admiral Mobility and Geely Farizon New Energy Commercial Vehicle Group enters a strategic partnership for launching of electric commercial vehicles across the Middle East for providing an environmentally friendly and commercially viable business model.

With COP28 fast approaching and sustainability being high on everyone's agenda, this partnership is a vital step to build EV truck portfolio

 Abigail Mathias

Admiral Mobility, a leading company in providing accessible eMobility and energy management solutions, has announced a plan to bring 5,000 electric commercial vehicles to the Middle East. The commitment comprises 3,000 electric commercial trucks, split between 6T and 8T, and a further 2,000 Electric Farizon superVANs.

The order is the result of a partnership between Admiral Mobility and Geely Farizon Commercial Group, which has been formed because of the growing demand

for ecological transportation, be it for highways, the city, or backroads, to ensure a cleaner environment. With the UAE's focus on achieving its sustainable development goals (SDGs) to provide access to clean energy and sustainable economic growth. The commitment in bringing 500 electric commercial vehicles to the UAE in 2023, will further help build the 'green transportation industry', especially in the lead up to climate change conference, COP28, next year.

Admiral Mobility's focus will be to offer businesses distributing goods the opportunity to do this sustainably

via the use of electric vehicle (EV) trucks, thus providing an environmentally friendly and commercially viable business model.

Furthermore, Admiral Mobility will provide multiple ways to support public and private sector businesses, through assisting with charging network requirements, managing after-sales services as well as offering attractive leasing model arrangements to provide complete flexibility and peace of mind.

Commenting on the announcement, Frank Bernthaler, Chief Operating Officer, Admiral Mobility, said, "With COP28 fast approaching and sustainability being high on everyone's agendas, this partnership is an important step forward to build a robust, EV truck portfolio in the region." With a range of up to 400 km, the zero emissions electric Farizon SuperVAN operates safely, taking less than two hours to fully charge via its efficient LFP battery. Advanced safety features include lane-keeping assist adapt cruise control, remote locking systems, high beam LED lights equipped with auto adaption to the surrounding traffic, and of course, ease of comfort of driving. 🚚





Dubai recognized as top air cargo station

Due to efforts of Cathay Pacific Cargo team, Dubai Airport has been recognized as one of top performing stations in 2021 for cargo operations. Cathay is looking at four freighters operating from Dubai to Europe, from Hong Kong to Riyadh, Riyadh to DWC, and DWC to Hong Kong.

 CT Bureau

A recognition event was recently held at Dubai World Central where the top management of Cathay Pacific Cargo recognized the dnata ground handling team for its services rendered.

Speaking to **CARGO talk** at the event, Vishnu Rajendran, Area Manager, Cathay Pacific Middle East, said, “Cargo is an integral part of our business. This could not be more evident than in the past couple of years. In terms of cargo operations, this event is to felicitate our ground handler in Dubai. Due to the efforts of our team and our ground handler, Dubai was recognized as one of the top perform-

ing stations in 2021 for cargo operations. It was important for us to recognize the people behind this success.” During the event dnata staff were presented with certificates of appreciation.

Discussing the impact of the past few years on cargo, he added, “With the pandemic, the cargo demand and operations were the focus. This year, we had to curtail our capacity both on the passenger and cargo side in the beginning of 2022 with restrictions from a crew perspective due to the Omicron variant. This year the operations were significantly less. In the first 10 months of 2022, the tonnage decreased by 11.1 per cent as against 21.9 per cent decrease in capacity

and a 30.9 per cent decrease in RFTKs as compared with the same period for 2021.”

Describing the road ahead, Rajendran said, “In terms of the local operations in the Middle East, we are looking at four freighters that operate from Dubai to Europe and one that operates from Hong Kong to Riyadh, Riyadh to DWC and DWC to Hong Kong. There is a strong demand to Europe. We are also looking at capitalizing on the growing demand to China and Hong Kong and focusing on our yields where that is concerned. Tonnage will be driven by e-Commerce related events. We are also looking forward to the perishable demand because it is the season for this.” 🍌

In 2022, the tonnage fell by 11.1% as against 21.9% drop in capacity and a 30.9% dip in RFTKs as compared with 2021

Linking consumers & producers of UAE, KSA

Latest investment to boost movement of commodities between the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan. Invictus Investment's move comes in line with the increased focus on expansion of commodities offerings and extensive efforts to ease movement of goods in the region.



Amir Daowd Abdellatif
CEO
Invictus Investment

 CT Bureau

Invictus Investment (ADX: INVICTUS) has announced a capital expenditure of AED 2.8 million to procure a fleet of over eight refrigerated trucks to enable movement of perishable goods between UAE, Sudan, and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The vehicles will transport items such as chilled meat of lamb, beef, and goat along with fruits.

This is the first key procurement to ramp up the firm's offering and expand services in the climate-controlled transport and storage facilities with asset allocation a continued focus. Earlier, Invictus Investment entered a JV with AD Ports Group's SAFEEN Feeders to launch an international dry bulk shipping centre at

an initial commitment of AED 463 million, cumulatively, for five ships of varying sizes. Invictus' dry-bulk trading business currently ships more than three million tons of commodities annually, primarily wheat and complementary grains.

"The rising urban population developed transport infrastructure combined with the proximity to the sea and airports, which contribute to the growth of the cold chain business in the region," said Amir Daowd Abdellatif, CEO, Invictus Investment. "The move is in line with the increased focus on expansion of commodities offerings and extensive efforts to ease movement of goods in the region."


According to a recent study, the global specialized freight trucking market is expected to grow to US\$980.49 bil-

lion this year at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.2 per cent from US\$889.89 billion in 2021. The market is expected to further grow to US\$1,381.77 billion by 2026.

"Investments in warehouses, transportation solution and silos are an important part of our growth and expansion plans. This will allow us to

The move is in line with focus on expansion of commodities offerings and efforts to ease movement of goods

broaden our offerings, while ensuring the future of food is secure. At Invictus, we are committed to connecting producers and consumers between the UAE and Saudi Arabia in a cost-effective manner," he added.

Set up in 2014, Invictus Investment listed in the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) in June 2022 with an initial valuation of AED 3 billion. 



Jaleel Holdings ramps up food storage capacity

New facility double's up group's food storage capacity with room for further expansion. This apart, firm has new integrated logistic venture with 28,000 MT storage capacity and offering world class 4 PL Services to market through food storage facility.



 CT Bureau

Jaleel Holdings, one of the leading UAE-based investment companies, has opened its new AED 90-million facility at Dubai Industrial City, a member of TECOM Group PJSC. As a part of the region's largest industrial hub, the facility comprises the latest store of UAE's largest consumer goods wholesaler, Jaleel Cash & Carry and integrated logistics centre of Crosswell Logistics.

The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Mariam Bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment. Also in attendance were Abdulla Belhoul, CEO, TECOM Group, and Saud Abu Alshawareb, Executive VP, Industrial Leasing, TECOM Group, MV Kunhumam-


med – Chairman, Jaleel Holdings, Sameer K Mohammed, MD, Jaleel Holdings, and government officials.

Jaleel Holdings owns and operates retail, wholesale, distribution, and processing companies in the fresh food and FMCG sectors. With a presence in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain and Ghana, the group is one of the largest consumer goods distributors in the region. Dubai Industrial City will house the group's latest Jaleel Cash and Carry store that caters to the bulk buying needs of B2B customers, including groceries, supermarkets, hotels, restaurants and B2C customers. The facility includes Crosswell Logistics LLC, a subsidiary of Jaleel Holdings and Contract Logistics Services provider. It offers more than 28,000 palletised

tons of multiple-temperature controlled storage ranging from ambient to -20° C and transport services.

CATERS TO NEEDS OF B2B CUSTOMERS

This facility allows Jaleel Cash and Carry to ensure a 30-day stock for all customers and fulfil the daily requirements of hotels, restaurants, caterers, retailers, offices, and bulk-buying families. The 30-day stock is large enough to serve 5 per cent of the UAE's population.

H.E. Eng Mohammed Mousa Alameeri, Assistant Undersecretary for the Food Diversity Sector at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, said, "Enhancing food security is one of the strategic priorities for the UAE. This is being achieved through a set of policies, he said. 

Dubai Industrial City will house the group's latest Jaleel Cash and Carry store that caters to the bulk buying needs of B2B customers

Expanding presence to better trade in Central Asia

AD Ports Group signs agreements for land in KEZAD to establish a logistics hub and customs zone, and the development of a single-window solution and other digital services and facilitate import and export of cargo from the Kyrgyz Republic.

 CT Bureau

Abu Dhabi Ports Group, the leading facilitator of global trade, logistics, and industry, has signed two major agreements with the Govern-



His Excellency Akylbek Zhaparov, Chairman, Cabinet of Ministers in Kyrgyzstan and Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, MD and Group CEO, AD Ports Group, during the signing of the agreements

ment of Kyrgyzstan to promote trade and strengthen economic ties with the Central Asian nation.

Under the first agreement, the Ministry of Economy and Commerce has entered negotiations with AD Ports Group to secure 300,000 sq. mt. of land within the Khalifa Economic Zone Abu Dhabi (KEZAD) to develop and operate a logistics hub and customs area. Based within KEZAD's Free Zone, the project will also facilitate the import and export of cargo to and from the Kyrgyz Republic. Under the second agreement,

Maqta Gateway will initiate a ways and means for the Ministry of Finance for developing a customs and border management solution, infrastructure, and national single window, among other digital services, for its deployment in Kyrgyzstan.

Maqta Gateway has demonstrated expertise in this area, having developed and operated Advanced Trade Platform (ATLP), the innovative single-window solution designed to unify trade and logistics services across Abu Dhabi, including sea, land, air, industrial and free zones. The agreements build upon AD Ports Group ongoing strategy to expand its presence in Central Asia. In 2020, Kyrgyzstan exported US\$70.9 million to the UAE, with key exports including gold, aircraft parts, and refined petroleum, while the UAE recorded US\$174M in trade to Kyrgyzstan.

Akylbek Zhaparov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, said, "Today is a historic day. The Kyrgyz Republic, which is one of the remotest landlocked countries, gets access to the sea. This is a big leap forward. The signed agreements will not only give a great impetus to the development of bilateral Kyrgyz Emirati relations, but will also help

our country make a powerful economic breakthrough."

Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, Managing Director and Group CEO, AD Ports Group, said: "These dual preliminary agreements – which highlight AD Ports Group's leadership in free zones and digital services—is an opportunity to advance ties between the two nations. Under guidance of our leadership, AD Ports Group continues to expand its presence around the world, and we see Central Asia as a market for growth and development. We thank Kyrgyzstan for the trust they have placed in us, and we look forward to working with them to promote modernization, digitalization and connectivity."

Abdullah Al Hameli, CEO of Economic Cities & Free Zones, AD Ports Group emphasized, "Our agreement with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Kyrgyzstan will be the beginning of a new chapter in our ties, with the plan for a logistics hub and customs area providing a focal point for economic development and trade between our nations. Firms will benefit from enhanced customs processes and access to market through the new trade hub, supported by KEZAD's strategic location. 🇰🇷"

AD Ports Group will secure 300,000 sq. mt. of land within the KEZAD to develop and operate a logistics hub and customs area

Customers benefit from fast delivery solution

UAE-based customers can now receive fast delivery of products they shopped for in the United Kingdom through Emirates Delivers UK. Goods will be sent in single package to be ferried by Emirates SkyCargo. Emirates Delivers UK is a welcome addition by some of the UK's biggest brands.

 CT Bureau

UAE-based customers can now benefit after Emirates SkyCargo has added the United Kingdom to Emirates Delivers, the home delivery shopping platform. Customers can now receive fast delivery of the products they shopped for in the UK through Emirates Delivers.

Emirates Delivers is the e-Commerce platform of Emirates SkyCargo that enables customers to shop from multiple online retailers in the UK, consolidate their purchases, and have the goods delivered directly to their door.

Several UAE-based shoppers have been using Emirates Delivers to shop from US retailers since it was launched in 2019. The introduction of Emirates Delivers UK is a welcome addition just in time for last minute festive shopping from some of the UK's biggest and most loved brands, with the strong US Dollar adding to the attraction of online shopping from UK retailers. Customers in the UAE can consolidate purchases from multiple UK e-commerce retailers into a single package to be transported by Emirates SkyCargo.

Emirates Delivers is a fast, reliable, and cost-effective e-



Commerce shipping solution for both individual customers as well as small businesses who regularly make online purchases for their personal or business needs. It is an open e-Commerce fulfilment platform that can be used by other e-Commerce businesses and logistics integrators.

Customers can take advantage of the competitive shipping rates offered by Emirates Delivers to move their goods from the UK to Dubai. Customers also benefit from reduced shipping weight as unneeded packaging material from each individual shipment is removed when Emirates Delivers repack the goods into one consolidated box. To use Emirates Delivers UK, the customers must register on [www.](http://www.emiratesdelivers.uk)

emiratesdelivers.uk to be allocated a unique and free Emirates Delivers mailing address in the UK. Customers signed-up to the Emirates Delivers US service can use a handy drop-down link in the menu after logging onto their accounts.

Products purchased from the UK e-Commerce retailers will be delivered to the customer's Emirates Delivers address in the UK, where goods can be stored free of charge for up to 30 days. The customers can continue to shop and build up their purchases with the flexibility to create a shipping request anytime within these 30 days. Once a shipping request is created, their purchases will be consolidated into one parcel and delivered to their designated UAE address in 3-5 days. 📦

Customers signed-up to the Emirates Delivers US service can use a handy drop-down link in the menu after logging onto their accounts



Delivering perishable foods: the **Blueberry** way

Cold logistics involves complex and time bound operations. We speak to **Dr. Abdulmonem Al Marzooqi**, Divisional CEO of Elite Agro to find out how his company produces and delivers perishable goods on time.

 Abigail Mathias

A leading UAE producer and distributor of fresh produce, Elite Agro (EAG), has doubled the production area of its blueberries, expanding the harvest season this year and adding new varieties of the popular superfood.

Elite Agro's premium brand of 'Elite Berry' blueberries are bringing locally-grown blueberries back to the market fresh from its Al Foah Farm along with three new varieties, exclusive to the

region. In addition to the famous jumbo blueberry named 'Eureka', the farm is growing variants called Eureka Sunrise, Dazzle, and Masena to help diversify and lengthen the harvest season to run from December-end until June. This year, blueberries will be grown over 25.8 hectares at Al Foah farm, encompassing 40 greenhouses and more than doubling the previous area of 12 hectares. Each greenhouse nurtures 3,350 blueberry plants that thrive in a climate-controlled environment enabled by advanced technologies.

What are the primary markets in the GCC for exports of fresh fruits and vegetables from Europe? Mention the quantity and most popular routes for the exports?

The primary markets are currently the UAE and KSA due to the demand for healthy fruits and vegetables from nationals as well as expats. A high percentage of the produce targeted to the popular UAE market is exported to the rest of the GCC markets. In addition, we also export them to Yemen, Sudan, and surrounding regions. The popular fruits are exported from Europe to

AT A GLANCE

- Each greenhouse nurtures 3,350 blueberry plants that thrive in a climate-controlled environment.
- Despite COVID challenges, we have witnessed no changes in logistics.

the GCC are apples, pears, citrus fruits, and berries. The most popular vegetables exported are onions, tomatoes, capsicums, lettuce, and broccoli. The value of the mentioned fruits exported out of Europe to the UAE is valued at an estimated US\$73 million, while the estimated value of vegetables exported is US\$75 million. The most popular route for the import of fresh fruit and vegetables is by sea, totaling around 90 per cent of the shipped quantity.

Have you noticed a change in fresh food logistics recently? Do you feel that tech in the sector has evolved, or would you want to see more such changes, or innovations soon?

Despite challenges of the pandemic, we have witnessed no major changes in logistics recently. Moving forward, the tech we use has room for further evolution as each sector implements digitalization, and harnesses the power of data. For instance, we would like to implement ef-



Dr. Abdulmonem Al Marzooqi
Divisional CEO
Elite Agro

ficient real-time supply chain visibility, and innovations in blockchain technology.

What challenges have you seen in cold logistics sector?

The main challenges are related to air shipments where we are facing a lot of fluctuation in temperatures throughout the supply chain as well as sea shipments, which arise from delays and congestion at ports. These are ongoing challenges that we take them seriously, even as we continue to work closely with our shipping

partners to ensure our produce arrives undamaged.

Fresh food logistics have many challenges as well. What would you identify as the top three challenges for the supply chain of this sector?

- Maintaining cold temperatures in the supply chain
- Availability of air freight space from certain destinations
- Strikes and industrial action taken by trade unions and workers at exporting ports in Europe

Where are the blueberries stored and what is the process of distribution in the UAE?


The blueberries are stored at the same farm where we produce them. This ensures effective management of the whole process and guarantees fresh, high-quality produce for our customers. Each blueberry is carefully selected and packed during the harvesting process and shipped to our customers in less than 24 hours in order to maintain freshness of our produce. 🍷

Last year, EAG farms in the UAE supplied 17,447 tons of fruits and vegetables to the local market. The company's objective is to reduce its carbon footprint



Breakbulk Middle East: 2k brands from 55 nations

Event will serve as an ideal platform for region's breakbulk and project cargo sector to reconnect with one another and will host a series of insightful discussions with influential industry players. The Breakbulk Middle East will take place at the Dubai World Trade Centre on 13-14 February 2023.

 CT Bureau

Breakbulk Middle East (BBME), the region's first and only event dedicated to the breakbulk and project cargo industry, is all set to take place at the Dubai World Trade Centre on 13-14 February 2023. Held under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, the much-awaited event has opened registration, marking the first step in its countdown to the opening day.

In line with its aim of driving the growth of the Middle East as a leading breakbulk and project cargo hub, BBME 2023 will bring together some of the leading organizations across the industry under one roof to reconnect with one

another and build an ecosystem that catalyzes the sector's progress. In addition to introducing ground-breaking initiatives that empower the industry, such as the "Education Day" and the "Women in Breakbulk Breakfast". The event will provide participants with opportunities to meet thought-leaders, secure long-term partnerships, and exchange ideas that solve significant issues.

Breakbulk events are held in four locations around the world and are the leading industry-specific exhibition in each region. Due to strong gatekeeping systems with companies in the Middle East, Breakbulk Middle East is only way to make direct connections with logistics and procurement decision makers,

assured by its deepening ties with local government. More than an exhibition, the event has a two-day conference, covering the hot topics project cargo specialists need to know to seize regional opportunities and construct effective project plans.

Led by the key players in the region, the conference also offers face-to-face opportunities to discuss these topics in greater depth. With strong support from regional cargo owners, Breakbulk Middle East is the place for logistics, transport, and other service providers to connect with those that hold new business contracts.

DRIVING GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION

The 2023 edition is expected to be the largest one ever held in the region. With over 4,000 attendees, more than 125 exhibitors, and over 2,100 companies expected to take part. Attendees can be assured of an unparalleled opportunity to connect with the region's breakbulk and project cargo sector. Additionally, panel discussions at BBME 2023 will witness the participation of over 50 industry experts, who will provide their insightful perspectives on how the sector could further enhance its progress. 🇦🇪

BBME will bring together some of the leading organizations in the industry under one roof to reconnect with one another



Dubai Customs visits air cargo dept, reviews progress

The management informed His Excellency that they carried out around 415,000 customs inspections, made 445 seizures, completed 12.7 million customs declarations. The presentation covered the measures applied to improve performance in Customs inspection and control of prohibited goods.



His Excellency Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, Director General of Dubai Customs and CEO of the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, visited the Air Cargo Centers Department to review the progress of work

 CT Bureau

His Excellency Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, Director General of Dubai Customs and CEO of the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, visited the Air Cargo Centers Department to review the progress of work. He was accompanied by Juma Al Ghaith, Executive Director of Customs Development Division, Sultan Al Jouker, Director General's Consultant, Dr. Abdullah Busnad, Executive Director of Customs Inspection Division, Mohammed Al Ghaffari, Executive Director, Human Resources, Finance and Administration Division, Rashid Al Sharid, Executive Director, Administration and Finance Division, Yousef Al-Hashimi, (Acting) Executive Director, Customer Management Divi-

sion and Farida Fadhil, (Acting) Executive Director of Policy and Legislation Division.

Sultan Saif Al-Suwaidi, Director of Air Cargo Customs Centers Management briefed the Director General on the Management's achievements in 2022 up until the end of 3rd quarter. The Management carried out around 415,000 customs inspections, made 445 seizures, and completed 12.7 million customs declarations.

The management of air cargo centers presentation covered the measures they apply to improve performance in inspection and control of prohibited goods, as well as the modernization of their systems and operations, and their efforts to develop cooperation with strategic partners to better protect society and

enhance the prosperity of Dubai's foreign trade. His Excellency said Air Cargo Centers play a vital role in Dubai trade, and continuous development of air cargo centers is essential to maintain the momentum.

"We keep developing our customs centers as part of Dubai Customs' strategic plan 2021-2026 to lead safe customs worldwide and provide world-class customs services to our clients," said Musabih. "This will help us keep up with the aspirations of (We the UAE Vision 2031) which His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai launched to outline the UAE strategic path in this decade, especially in trade, which is an integral part of the country's economy." 🇦🇪

Air Cargo Centers play a vital role in Dubai trade, and their continuous development is essential to maintain momentum

15% drop in cargo volumes for regional carriers

Middle Eastern carriers experienced a 15% y-o-y decline in cargo volumes in October 2022. This was a marginal improvement to the previous month (-15.8%). Stagnant cargo volumes to/from Europe impacted the region's performance. Capacity increased by 1.0% compared to October 2021. The IATA released data for October 2022 global air cargo markets showing headwinds continue to affect air cargo demand.



Qatar Airways Cargo to increase flights to Kuwait



Qatar Airways Cargo is increasing its services to Kuwait, operating 4x weekly instead of its usual 2x. It is also increasing frequencies to Muscat by adding an extra two services, from once weekly to three times weekly. A mix of A310 (leased) and B777 freighters will be operated on these services. They launched a freighter service to Riyadh recently, operating Boeing 777 freighters twice a week, with 100 tons cargo capacity each.

Plans to change Riyadh into six-runway airport



Saudi Arabia has announced plans to transform Riyadh Airport into a six-runway airport and logistics hub that will have capacity to handle 3.5 million tons of cargo by 2050. The site will include KSA and will cover an area of 57 sq. km. It will also include 12 sq. km. of airport support facilities, residential and recreational facilities, retail outlets, and other logistics real estate, stated an official release. The development aims to boost Riyadh's position as a global logistics hub, stimulate transport, trade and tourism.

EFTA hits three key milestones at third graduation ceremony

As the aviation world grapples with pilot shortages, Emirates Flight Training Academy's (EFTA), a subsidiary of The Emirates Group, welcomed 53 new pilots at the third graduation ceremony held recently. At the graduation ceremony, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group awarded certificates to the cadet graduates. EFTA also hosted His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Ahli, Director General, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and His Excellency Khalifa Al Zaffin, Executive Chairman, Dubai Aviation City Corporation.



SalamAir secures IATA's operational safety audit registration



Oman's airline SalamAir has secured the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) registration. Captain Mohamed Ahmed, CEO, SalamAir, said, "IOSA program enables it to benchmark its ops safety standards by improving its management and control systems. Being IOSA registered is the evidence for putting safety factors first."

IAG Cargo participates in CargoWise platform

IAG Cargo is integrated with WiseTech Global's logistics platform CargoWise to enable freight forwarders to choose, book, confirm and change shipments, in real time. Direct data link with IAG Cargo's operational data allows CargoWise customers direct access to schedules, dynamic rates, capacity, and allotment bookings. The integration is designed to allow CargoWise users to change digital bookings without an application.



Lufthansa Cargo uses lightweight cargo pallet nets



Lufthansa Cargo will begin using lightweight nets to secure cargo pallets to save weight on flights and reduce emissions from January. The 'Pallet NetZero' nets made by the AmSafe Bridport, which Lufthansa Cargo will be using through its subsidiary Jettainer, weigh between nine and 11 kg, which is less than half the weight of a conventional net made of polyester fibres, as per a release.

Saudi Arabia to construct 19 logistics service zones



Saudi Arabia is pushing ahead with construction of 19 logistic service zones worth 29 billion Saudi Riyals (\$7.7 billion) in investment value in partnership with the private sector. Saudi has established several such zones at key seaports and has invited the private sector for similar projects, stated official reports. The country aims to 'create a solid logistics base' to become one of the largest hubs in line with the country's economic diversification scheme 'Vision2030'.

WestJet Cargo to launch four 737-800BCFs in March 2023

WestJet Cargo, the air cargo division of WestJet, confirmed the launch of four dedicated Boeing 737-800 freighters on 26 March 2023 to increase its operations, thereby meeting the growing demand of the Canadian market, stated official reports. Kirsten De Bruijn, WestJet Executive VP, Cargo, said, "WestJet Cargo is about to enter a promising and exciting period in its development. The arrival of our new fleet, converted freighters, will enable us to meet the rising demand of the Canadian market, more than ever before. The New Year will undoubtedly be a significant year for WestJet Cargo."



Amerijet plans to add five B767F to its fleet by 2023



Amerijet has shared its plans to double the size of its fleet in the coming five years. "The airline has experienced rapid growth in recent months as its fleet has grown from eight aircraft at the start of 2020 to operating 22 today—16 B767s and six B757s. The aircraft looks to grow the fleet further," said Tim Strauss, chief executive.

Port Qasim gets new MMLP to enhance cargo ops



A.P. Moller-Maersk, the integrated logistics company, inaugurated its new Integrated Logistics Park at Port Qasim in Pakistan. Maersk Pakistan took the bold decision to invest in an Integrated Logistics Park that would act as a warehouse, including a consolidation, fulfilment centre and cold storage, at Port Qasim. Maersk Pakistan went on to acquire a 26-acre land parcel to designing and constructing a six-shed facility spread over 560,000 sq. ft.

Kuehne+Nagel opens new airside pharma facility



Kuehne+Nagel has signed a pact for a new airside facility at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport that aims to boost Africa's healthcare and pharma logistics capability. K+N will offer customers a set of logistics solutions, including warehousing, transportation, customs brokerage, supply chain management, and airside support to outbound shipments.

Teleport to build logistics firm in Southeast Asia

Teleport, the logistics venture under Capital A Berhad (formerly known as AirAsia Group Berhad) has raised new capital of US\$50 million from institutional credit investors to extend its cross-border delivery capabilities in key Southeast Asian markets. Teleport will use the funds to induct more freighters, build critical hubs in Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia, and invest in tech allowing anyone to 'Teleport It' in 24 hours.



DP World Logistics opens new warehouse at Jafza



DP World Logistics recently opened a new 6,000 sq. mt. high-end warehouse at Container Freight Station 2 (CFS 2), offering new storage solutions for customers at the Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza). The new warehouse offers 12,500 pallet positions using Very Narrow Aisle racking systems, storing cargo up to 18 meters high. On a combined plot size of 60,000 sq. mt., CFS 2 can handle up to 6,000 20-foot equivalent units per month. DP World Logistics currently operates out of six facilities in Jafza.

AFKLMP Cargo shifts 46 juvenile tortoises to Senegal

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo (AFKLMP Cargo) worked with the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco to transport 46 tortoises to Le Village des Tortues in Noflaye, Senegal, as part of a population reinforcement project. This transfer is one phase of a three-year programme. Since 2012, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco has been home to African spurred tortoises, the third largest land tortoise in the world.



Shipsy enhances efficiencies

Complexities of last-mile delivery (LMD) have been ironed out with advanced tech. Last mile in supply chain management and transportation is delivery to a particular destination.

CT Bureau

Shipsy, a leading SaaS-based logistics management provider, has been recognized as a Representative Vendor in the 2022 December Gartner Market Guide for Last-Mile Delivery Technology Solutions.

“The aspirations of many organizations to provide an Amazon-like experience combined with the continued evolution of unified commerce operations is driving many organizations to enhance their LMD ca-

At Shipsy, we strive to empower customers to unlock operational efficiencies

pabilities. These capabilities were often not supported with the right technology solutions, resulting in inefficient processes and a less-than-optimal customer experience. Software vendors in the LMD market respond to these business drivers by adding enhanced capabilities to their products, filling the gaps in the last-mile process that more mature transportation software solutions have,” stated the Gartner



Soham Chokshi
CEO & Co-founder, Shipsy

Market Guide for LMD Technology Solutions.

“At Shipsy, we endeavor to empower customers to unlock operational efficiencies in a rapidly changing delivery landscape. We are honored with our recognition in the Gartner Market Guide for LMD Technology Solutions. Through rapid technology innovation, Shipsy is helping businesses to address evolving LMD challenges and rapidly growing customer demands. Our platform assists businesses to unlock new revenue streams and identify cost-optimization pockets,” while delivering superior customer experiences,” said Soham Chokshi, CEO & Co-founder, Shipsy.

Rise in e-Commerce make businesses adapt to changing customer demands to be competitive. The LMD solution drives logistics through data and analytics, and makes deliveries more sustainable. 🚚

Event Talk 2023

JANUARY

► World Cargo Summit

Date: 30 January-1 February 2023
Venue: Hilton Yas, Abu Dhabi

FEBRUARY

► Breakbulk Middle East (BBME)

Date: 13-14 February 2023
Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre

► Air Cargo Africa

Date: 21-23 February
Venue: Emperors Palace, Johannesburg

MARCH

► TIACA Regional Event

Date: 27-29 March 2023
Venue: ITC Maurya New Delhi

APRIL

► IATA World Cargo Symposium

Date: 25-27 April 2023
Venue: Hilton Bomonti Hotel, Istanbul

► LogiPharma

Date: 25-27 April 2023
Venue: Centre de Congrès de Lyon, France

MAY

► Air Cargo Europe

Date: 9-12 May
Venue: Internationales Congress Center München, Munich

JUNE

► Paris Air Show

Date: 19-25 June
Venue: Le Bourget, Paris

SEPTEMBER

► Air Cargo Handling and Logistics

Date: 20-22 September 2023
Venue: Grand Hyatt, Athens

OCTOBER

► Air Cargo Americas

Date: 31 October-2 November
Venue: Miami Airport Convention Centre (Miami)

NOVEMBER

► Air Cargo/Transport Logistic Southeast Asia

Date: 1-3 November 2023
Venue: Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Singapore

► TIACA Executive Summit

Date: 6-8 November 2023
Venue: Skyhall Brussels Airport

► Dubai Air Show

Date: 13-17 November 2023
Venue: Dubai Airshow Site, Dubai

For more information contact: talk@ddppl.com

The dates shown on the annual event calendar are subject to change. Please refer to EventTalk in **CARGO talk** to track the changes in dates.



Movements



ABU DHABI AIRPORTS UAE

★ **Jamal Salem Al Dhaheri** has joined as the new chief executive/managing director, Abu Dhabi Airports to oversee the execution of the company's ambitious cargo and passenger strategy. The airport's Midfield Terminal cargo masterplan project embraces "substantial investments" in new facilities and infrastructure. The new chief executive has more than 27 years of experience in leadership positions at several companies in the capital city of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a press release stated. He is the reins from Shareef Hashim Al Hashmi.



CHAPMAN FREEBORN United Kingdom

★ **David Tasker** has been appointed as Director, Government & Humanitarian of Chapman Freeborn of Avia Solutions Group. He brings 30 years of experience to the company. Previously, he worked as VP, Global Defence, DB Schenker, and Head, DSCOM, where he was responsible for all goods movements across Europe and procurement and tender analysis for the Ministry of Defence. He explained, "In transportation logistics, Chapman is a household name. Aircraft needs, partner pacts, whatever we needed, it was there to sort it out."



CHAPMAN FREEBORN United Kingdom

★ **Andy Hudson** has been appointed as Regional CEO, APAC, for Chapman Freeborn, part of Avia Solutions Group. With an experience of 21 years, his first charter broker position was in 2006. He then moved to aviation acquisitions and aircraft management, which led him to launching his companies, Private Jet Central, PJC Aviation and Down-Route, in 2008, 2012 and 2015. In his new role, Hudson will be focusing on growth opportunities in the region's marketplace. He was drawn to the Chapman Group when he saw the growth it enjoyed.



AMERIFLIGHT USA

★ **Alan Rusinowitz** has been named president and CEO, Ameriflight, the "nation's largest Part 135 Cargo airline." The airline flies 30 tons of cargo daily, and is a vital part of the UPS, FedEx, and DHL supply chains. He will amplify the company's vision as the leader in scalable, outsourced aviation services to the regional express airfreight market. He will be responsible for planning and executing current and future business operation strategies. "Rusinowitz is the one to build on Ameriflight's momentum," Jim Martell, Owner and Chairman, Ameriflight said.



COLOGNE BONN AIRPORT Germany

★ **Andrea Tony Geslao** has been appointed as the Head, Cargo Sales department, Cologne Bonn Airport. As the Head, Ccargo Sales, he "wants to drive forward the positive development of cargo traffic at the airport". When cargo proved to be an important stabilizer during the pandemic in 2021, Cologne Bonn saw its cargo volumes increase by 14 per cent to 986,000 tons. After holding various positions at Lufthansa, Geslao has been working at the Cologne Bonn airport since 2018, most recently heading the airline marketing department.



MAERSK Denmark

★ **Vincent Clerc** has been appointed as the CEO by the A.P. Moller-Maersk's Ocean & Logistics. He will be taking over the rudder from Søren Skou, who joined A.P. Moller-Maersk company as a teenager 40 years ago and has since led the firm as the CEO since 2016. "It feels a bit surreal. It is a culmination of 25 years of work here in the company and especially the last few quite exciting years, with the strategy and the team we have here. This is still unfolding and it is dawning upon me," Clerc said. He will assume the CEO position on 1 January 2023.



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