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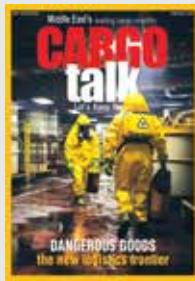
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4

Moving Dangerous Goods: The new learning curve for air cargo



10

Trade lanes & trends for 2026



19

Oman Air Cargo adds Asia gateway, targets high-value goods



27

Robots make last-mile logistics faster and smarter



28

Centralised control room to manage screening at DXB



34

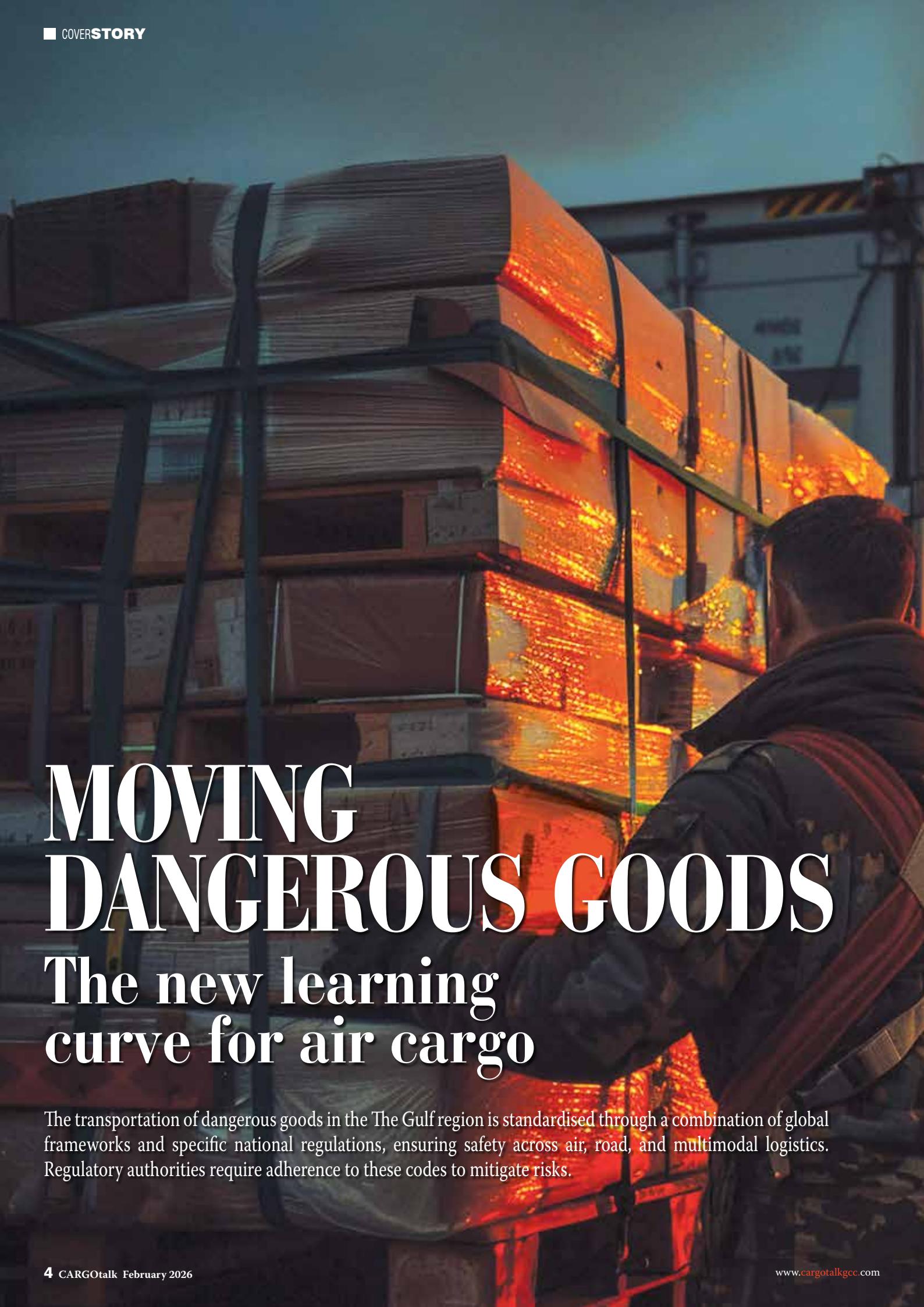
Abu Dhabi begins tests to ferry blood samples through drones



42

Qatar to enhance Customs valuation through AI

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MOVING DANGEROUS GOODS

The new learning curve for air cargo

The transportation of dangerous goods in the The Gulf region is standardised through a combination of global frameworks and specific national regulations, ensuring safety across air, road, and multimodal logistics. Regulatory authorities require adherence to these codes to mitigate risks.


 Dr Shehara Rizly Fernando

When it comes to airlines, forwarders, handlers, and shippers, regulatory compliance across air and road modes is fundamental in ensuring safe, efficient, and commercially viable operations. With the region serving as a major global air freight hub, connectivity between airports, free zones, and neighbouring markets is essential.

Equally important is road transportation, as shorter distances and closely connected borders make trucking a key link in the Dangerous Goods (DG) supply chain. In the Gulf, the movement of DG is governed by well-established regulations across air and road transport, aligned with global frameworks such

as IATA DGR, ICAO Technical Instructions, and ADR-equivalent regional road transport standards.

For the air cargo community, this multimodal alignment is important as many DG shipments move by road to and from airports, free zones, and cross-border destinations. When documentation is harmonised across modes — covering classification, packaging, labelling, and declarations — the transition between air and road becomes seamless for logistics providers and customers.

Border proximity within the GCC reinforces the importance of compliant road transport, as cross-border trucking is the most efficient choice for time-sensitive or specialised DG cargo. Authorisation

processes, certified drivers, approved vehicles, and trained handling staff ensure continuity and safety beyond the airport perimeter. Major logistics hubs in the region are supported by strong infrastructure and regulatory oversight, enabling DG cargo to move efficiently across short-haul road networks without compromising compliance.

Operational disruptions are connected to documentation gaps or misalignment between air and road needs, rather than regulatory complexity. For forwarders, airlines, and shippers, early coordination on multimodal compliance reduces delays, border hold-ups, and cost escalation.

CARGOTALK spoke with a few industry experts to find out their insights.



HAZMAT regulations focused on safety

Regulatory frameworks are aligned with ICAO and IATA standards, supported by enforcement, digital documentation, and focus on safety. The most active dangerous goods trade routes connect the Gulf region with Asia, Europe, and North America, alongside growing intra-Gulf Cooperation Council demand. This is driven by Abu Dhabi's role as an international logistics and pharmaceutical hub. Etihad Cargo continues to invest in international best practices to ensure safe and compliant hazardous goods transport.



Stanislas Brun
Chief Cargo Officer
Etihad Airways

E-comm growth buoys lithium battery cargo

The DG sector is undergoing transformation, shaped by converging commercial, regulatory, and technological forces. Growth in e-commerce shipments has increased lithium battery shipments, placing new pressures on the cargo carriers in order to manage heightened



Liana Coyne
Director
Coyne Airways

“Regional aviation authorities are tightening oversight, with alignment to IATA DGR and expanded mandatory training.”

screening requirements and mitigate risks of misdeclaration. Authorities of regional aviation are tightening oversight, with alignment to IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations and expanded mandatory training — especially in Dubai and Doha.

“The most active DG trade routes connect the Gulf with Asia, Europe, and North America, alongside growing intra-GCC demand.”



Emphasis on compliance and risk management

Regulatory developments shaping dangerous goods include alignment with ICAO TI, IMDG Code and ADR, enhanced lithium battery rules, digital documentation, and greater enforcement at the ports and airports. Market trends show rising volumes driven by energy transition materials, chemicals, batteries, and pharmaceuticals, with emphasis on compliance, training and risk management. Demand is driven by the Middle East region's role as an international logistics hub for dangerous goods logistics.

“ Trends show rising volumes driven by energy transition materials, chemicals, batteries, and pharmaceuticals.”



AS Azimi
Managing Director
Azimi Group of
Companies

Demand for dangerous goods logistics on the rise

GCC is adopting the 2025 ADR for road freight, IMDG, and ICAO/IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations cycles, introducing new UN numbers, and updated packaging rules. Dubai, Doha, and Abu Dhabi dominate dangerous goods corridors

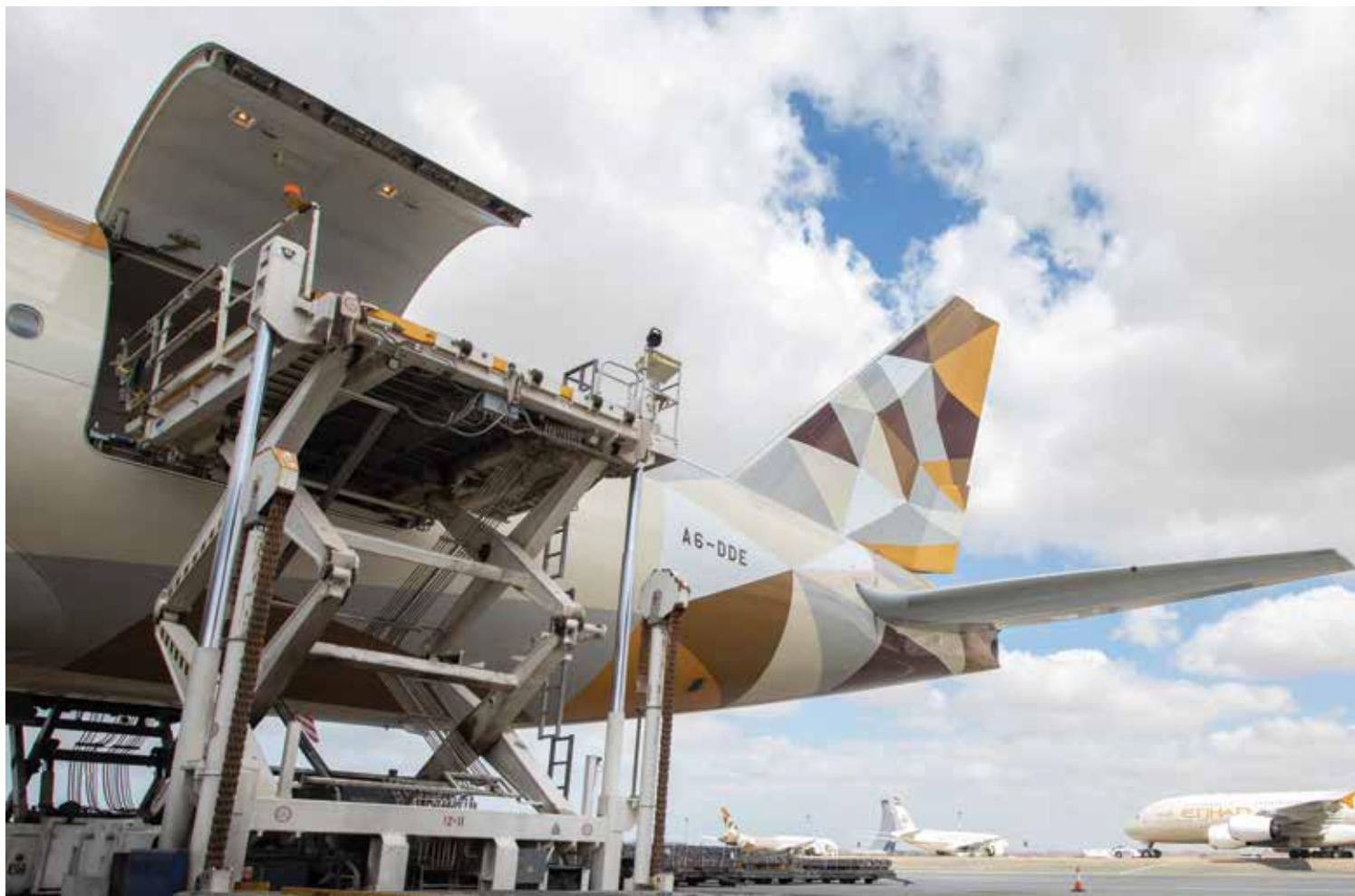


Hamdi Osman
Founder & CEO
SolitAir Holding

“ Dubai, Doha, and Abu Dhabi dominate DG routes between Europe and Asia. DG logistics' demand is rising, nearing US\$ 2.5 billion.”

between Europe and Asia. Demand for dangerous goods logistics is increasing, approaching US\$ 2.5 billion-mark, driven by oil, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals, among others, alongside 7.5 per cent of air cargo growth, sustainability initiatives, and artificial intelligence (AI) automation.





Transport of DG shaped by regulations

DG transportation in the Middle East region is shaped by regulatory alignment with ICAO, IATA, IMDG for maritime transport, enforcement by regional aviation, and port authorities. Demand is driven by growth in energy, chemicals, and lithium battery-related cargo connected to e-commerce and renewable technology. The active dangerous goods corridors include GCC-Asia, GCC-Europe, and intra-Middle East routes, supported by the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as global logistics hubs.



Axel Herzhauser
Global CEO
WeFreight

Demand strongest on three corridors

Dangerous goods transport is shaped by alignment with frameworks such as ICAO, IATA Dangerous Goods Regulation, IMDG Code, ADR for road freight, and enforcement by regional authorities. Demand is strongest on Asia-Middle East-Europe corridors, intra-GCC trade,



Martin Bremen
Managing Director
DIMOS FZCO

“ DG transport is shaped by alignment with ICAO, IATA DGR, IMDG Code, ADR, and enforcement by regional authorities.”

and Africa-bound routes. The growth is driven by e-commerce, energy and infrastructure projects, pharmaceutical supply chains, and the role of Middle East region as a high-reliability multimodal logistics and transshipment hub, among others.

“ Demand is driven by growth in energy, chemicals, and lithium-battery-related cargo linked to e-commerce and renewable tech.”





Rising industrialisation boosts air cargo

Regulations such as IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations updates, enhanced multimodal safety standards, and restrictive operator approval needs continue to shape DG movements across air, sea, and land. Market trends show compliance investment, digital documentation, and demand for specialised handling. Rising regional industrialisation and expanding logistics hubs enhance DG volumes. The corridors include GCC–Africa, GCC–Europe, and Asia–Middle East corridors.

“Market trends show compliance investment, digital documentation, and demand for specialised handling.”



Fitsum Abadi
Director, Cargo
Kenya Airways

Digitisation of records drives cargo growth

I see DG regulation becoming more stringent, with enforcement of IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations and GCAA for lithium batteries, shipper declarations, training compliance, and audit controls. The region's hub



Rohit Thakwani
CEO
Airglow Aviation

“The region's hub status, combined with speed, reliability, and compliance, continues to drive growth in DG transportation.”

status, combined with speed, reliability, and compliance, continues to drive growth in dangerous goods transportation. Digitisation of the dangerous goods documentation and acceptance procedures are influencing how cargo moves across the air, sea, and road networks.



Trade lanes & trends for 2026

In 2025 and heading into 2026, the Asia–Europe and intra-Asia trade lanes are demonstrating the strongest performance and growth across both air and sea freight sectors, driven by e-commerce expansion and a redirection of trade flows. The North America–Europe and Middle East–Asia corridors are experiencing significant growth, driven by e-commerce, diversification of manufacturing, and strategic rerouting due to geopolitical shifts.



Dr Shehara Rizly Fernando

Understanding which trade lanes are gaining momentum — and why — will be critical for carriers, forwarders, and shippers planning capacity, network strategy, and long-term investment. The growth of e-commerce is no longer limited to traditional East-West corridor; instead, it is accelerating demand across a wider set of trade lanes, with Asia–Middle East, Middle East–Europe, and intra-regional GCC routes showing notable traction.

Faster delivery expectations, smaller shipment sizes and higher frequency movements are driving increased reliance on air cargo, supported by road feeder services that connect regional hubs and nearby borders. In the Middle East, improved road infrastructure and streamlined customs processes are enabling quicker cross-border movement, making road transport an increasingly attractive complement to air and sea freight.

However, trade lane performance this year will

not be driven by cargo volumes alone. Regional trade policies are playing a decisive role in shaping growth patterns. Tariffs, customs regulations, bilateral pacts, and free trade zones can enhance — or restrict — the attractiveness of certain routes.

Markets that offer simplified clearance procedures, predictable regulatory environments, and competitive duty structures are seeing an uptick from e-commerce platforms and logistics providers alike. Geopolitical stability

and resilience of supply chains are influencing route selection, as shippers prioritise reliability alongside speed and cost.

For cargo stakeholders, identifying the most promising trade lanes in the new year will require a holistic view — balancing e-commerce demand, multimodal connectivity, and policy dynamics. Those that adapt networks early will be best positioned to capture growth in a competitive and policy-sensitive international air cargo landscape.



Time-sensitive cargo witnessing more growth

With the growth of e-commerce, air cargo volumes are increasing, especially for time-sensitive shipments, such as pharmaceuticals and perishables. This, in other words, is creating demand on major trade routes such as Asia–North America and Asia–Europe. Some trade corridors are witnessing more growth due to frequent, smaller shipments, and faster delivery expectations. Free trade agreements (FTAs) and simplified customs procedures make the corridors more competitive and efficient.



Razmal Assen
Executive Director
Scanwell Logistics LLC

E-commerce sector supercharging demand

The international e-commerce sector is reshaping international logistics, supercharging demand on significant consumer routes. Sustained strength is expected in Asia-Pacific (APAC) corridor alongside cargo volumes from China to Latin America. Evolving regulations



Rizwan Kareem
Director, Air Freight
Operations, ATS World

“ Evolving regulations in the EU and ongoing geopolitical adjustments are making agility on these lanes critical for efficiency.”

in the European Union (EU) and ongoing geopolitical adjustments are making agility on these corridors critical for efficiency. Success in the new year belongs to those who can navigate demand and regional regulatory frameworks.

“ Some trade corridors are witnessing more growth due to frequent, smaller shipments, and faster delivery expectations.”



Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe routes growing

The growth of e-commerce is shaping cargo flows on trade lanes linking manufacturing hubs to consumer markets, driving demand for containerised shipments and associated dry bulk products. Routes from Asia to the Middle East region, Africa, and Europe are experiencing growth, reflecting evolving demand for e-commerce. Operators must remain agile, balance cost, and reliability, while navigating evolving regulation. Volatility is the new normal. Regional trade policies, tariffs, and regulatory changes continue to influence route efficiency.

“ Operators must remain agile, balance cost and reliability, while navigating evolving regulation. Volatility is the new normal.”



Rob Aravold
CEO
Legasea

Policies shape route attractiveness

Demand is driven by faster delivery expectations, smaller shipment sizes, and higher shipment frequency. Intra-Asia trade lanes are seeing growth as manufacturing, consumption, and cross-border e-commerce within Southeast and East Asia accelerate. Asia-Europe corridor



Abid Hamza
GM, Business Development
Fast Logistics Cargo FZCO

“ Asia-Europe corridor remains one of the significant growth corridors, supported by online retail demand and cargo capacity.”

remains a key growth lane, supported by online retail demand and capacity. Regional trade policies are playing a vital role in shaping route attractiveness. Trade lanes this year will favour speed, regulatory clarity, and resilience, with shippers prioritising routes.





Routes linking hubs in Asia seeing growth

The rapid rise of global e-commerce is reshaping cargo flows, boosting demand along key trade lanes. Routes linking manufacturing hubs in Asia to major consumer markets in North America and Europe are seeing growth, driven by faster delivery expectations and the rise of direct-to-consumer shipments. Intra-Asia, Asia–Middle East, and Asia–Africa corridors are expanding, as regional online shopping surges and e-commerce trade with Africa grows steadily. Some flows are slowing down like shipments from India to the US have declined due to high tariffs.



Kannan
MD & CEO
GSA Global

Momentum on Africa–Asia corridors

E-commerce growth is driving rising volumes between Asia and Africa, and across intra-Africa and Asia–Middle East lanes. Asia–USA and Asia–Europe routes remain strong, but Africa–Asia corridors are seeing momentum as sourcing diversifies and digital retail penetration



Aaron Smith
Director
ACI Logistics

“ USA tariffs on Asian goods influence sourcing decisions and encourage route realignment via alternative manufacturing hubs.”

expands. USA tariffs on selected Asian goods influence sourcing decisions and encourage route realignment via alternative manufacturing hubs. In EMEA, preferential trade frameworks, regulatory alignment, and customs digitisation improve efficiency.

“ The rapid rise of international e-commerce is reshaping cargo flows, boosting demand along key trade lanes.”





Faster delivery driving demand for freighters

Rapid growth of e-commerce is increasing volumes, especially on Asia–Middle East–Europe and Asia–North America routes. Faster delivery options are driving demand for freighters, express capacity, and regional hubs. Routes connected to manufacturing and online retail fulfilment are seeing the strongest growth. Regional trade policies, tariffs, and regulations affect route attractiveness. Trade restrictions, sanctions, or complex regulations can shift cargo flows to alternative hubs or countries with more favourable policies.



Vijayan Perumal
Director, Air Freight
ALSI Global

“Trade curbs, sanctions, or regulations can shift cargo flows to alternative hubs with more favourable policies.”



Egypt goes for paperless cargo, eases costs

Trade is evolving in the Middle East, and Egypt is keeping pace. For years, importing goods into Egypt meant dealing with massive paperwork and longer delays. But today, with digital systems and lower fees, air cargo in Egypt is becoming faster, smarter, and cheaper, helping businesses see what trade really looks like.

CT Bureau

Trade connects countries, businesses, and people. Every cargo shipment has a journey, from the supplier to the store shelf and Egypt's new digital system, combined with lower fees, promises to make these processes faster and smoother, thus rewriting the way trade moves across the Middle East.

Starting 1 January, Egypt made the Advance Cargo Information (ACI) system mandatory for all incoming shipments. The government reduced automation and data verification fees by US\$ 80. The new fee of US\$ 95 per shipment will remain in force for six months, giving businesses relief as they adjust to the new digital system.

The ACI system requires importers and freight forwarders to give detailed cargo information electronically before goods arrive. Officials say this approach helps speed up Customs clearance, reduces



Hon. Ahmed Kouchouk
Finance Minister
Egypt

As Egypt digitises its trade and logistics systems, firms can expect faster clearances and lower costs

paperwork, and allows authorities to manage shipments efficiently. For firms handling high-value or time-sensitive products such as electronics,

pharmaceuticals, and spare parts, the change could save time and money, while improving overall logistics planning.

Hon. Ahmed Kouchouk, Finance Minister, Egypt, said the Egyptian Government's goal is to make trade simpler, while supporting businesses. "We want to help the firms adjust to new systems, while ensuring high-quality goods enter Egypt," he added.

According to industry leaders, the move is a positive step for the trade ecosystem of the country. By reviewing shipment data in advance, the authorities can ensure that compliant and high-standard products enter the market. This strengthens competition and supports local industries and protects consumers.

A senior freight forwarder in Cairo describing the timing as ideal, said, "Making ACI mandatory is a big step, but reducing the fees shows that the

government understands the challenges faced by importers and logistics firms." As Egypt digitises its trade and logistics systems, companies can expect faster clearance times, smoother operations, and lower costs. Mandatory digital checks and reduced fees could make Egypt an attractive hub for air cargo, helping businesses, consumers, and the wider economy alike. 



ENABLING THE RISE OF A NEW ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER.

The Global South, a once-flippant definition of developing nations, is fast becoming synonymous with rising prosperity and sustainability.

And logistics is playing a leading role, with easy, quick, regular and dependable trading access through a central hub. The hub is Dubai, rapidly gaining the reputation as Capital of the Future. The access is SolitAir, the newest 'middle mile' freight airline which is busy rewriting the playbook on speed and reliability.

SolitAir is the only scheduled cargo carrier, which allows 'first mile' and 'last mile' operators to function with a supremely more efficient timetable, scalable according to customer need.

Secondly, we have the capability to carry sensitive cargo such as medicine and other priority payloads which may require temperature control.

Thirdly, we're opening up new destinations throughout the Global South. Many of these communities have been under-served in the past but have not been lacking in ambition or economic potential.

To efficiently serve this region makes us proud. But to play such a significant role in the growth and prosperity of this newly self-determined community of nations, well, that makes us humble indeed.



SalamAir, WCS pact to widen reach, explore new trade lanes

With trade on the rise and demand for cargo growing, Oman is repositioning itself to meet the surge. The market is evolving with airlines focusing more on ways to move, than on adding capacity. To keep up with this demand, SalamAir is not only flying passengers but also exploring ways to connect Omani goods to markets around the world.

CT Bureau

Looking beyond its current markets, SalamAir is taking steps to grow its cargo business. The Omani low-cost carrier (LCC) has signed a five-year agreement with World Cargo Solutions DMCC (WCS) to manage cargo operations across its network. This move reflects SalamAir's plan to build an efficient cargo operation that can better support trade into and out of Oman.

Under the agreement, WCS will provide cargo management services, including sales, planning, and day-to-day operational support. For the airline, this brings a more structured and coordinated approach to cargo handling. On the other hand, for customers, this gives more choice, smoother connections, and better reliability when moving goods across borders.

"Partnering with WCS marks another milestone in our journey to strengthen SalamAir's position as a competitive and reliable player in



Steven Allen
CCO
SalamAir

Under the agreement, WCS will provide cargo management services, such as sales and planning

the air cargo market. Since we are Oman's LCC, we are proud to align our growth with the Sultanate's logistics ambitions under Vision 2040, supporting trade, industry, and connectivity on a global scale. Through

this collaboration, we will enhance our reach and provide customers with access to global markets through an experienced global network," commented Steven Allen, CCO, SalamAir.

While SalamAir has always focused on passenger services, cargo is now becoming a more important part of its business model. By partnering with WCS, it gains access to a well-established global network of airlines, freight forwarders, and logistics partners. The partnership will allow SalamAir Cargo to expand into new markets and trade routes without needing to build a global cargo structure on its own.

The pact is likely to support Oman's logistics and trade by improving how capacity is planned, sold, and connected to global markets. With WCS managing the cargo network, SalamAir can better match capacity with real demand, open new trade routes, and give exporters and importers access to key markets. This is relevant for Omani businesses

that rely on predictable lift for high-value, urgent, or seasonal shipments. By strengthening these links, SalamAir's cargo operation can play an important role in supporting trade growth, and the wider logistics aims set out under Oman Vision 2040.

"We aim to deliver efficient, transparent, and innovative cargo solutions that strengthen SalamAir's market presence and benefit customers across all continents. This collaboration allows us to combine our global experience with the airline's growth strategy, enabling optimised cargo performance, improved connectivity, and greater value for its partners and clients," Nilan Gunatilaka, acting CEO, WCS DMCC, added. ☺



(Third from left) Steven Allen, Chief Commercial Officer, SalamAir, and Nilan Gunatilaka, acting CEO, World Cargo Solutions DMCC (third from right) along with other members of Salam Air and WCS

AT A GLANCE

- ❖ WCS will handle all cargo operations
- ❖ More choices and reliable delivery for customers
- ❖ New trade lanes without extra infrastructure
- ❖ Supports Oman Vision 2040 goals
- ❖ Boosts exports and imports for Omani businesses
- ❖ Shift from passenger focus to cargo growth

Oman Air Cargo adds Asia gateway, targets high-value goods

Oman is becoming a key hub for East-West trade, linking producers and exporters to global trading centres and offering faster access to new opportunities. As trade grows and people expect things to arrive quickly, the Sultanate's position makes it easier for exporters and importers to connect with the world.

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The Middle East is preparing to launch new routes across the Asia-Pacific region. With demand for high-value and time-sensitive goods on the rise, businesses need more reliable and efficient connections to key markets in Southeast Asia and beyond.

Beginning July 2026, Oman Air cargo will start four flights a week between Muscat and Singapore, expanding its reach in the Asia-Pacific region and giving businesses options to move their goods efficiently. The new route, flown with a Boeing 737 MAX, will connect Oman to one of the world's busiest trading hubs. Singapore connects across Asia making it an important gateway for firms looking to transport goods quickly and reliably, while also offering connections to other markets in the region.

"The service strengthens Muscat's role as a key connector between the Middle East



Michael Duggan
Head, Cargo
Oman Air

Beginning July 2026, the carrier will start four flights a week between Muscat and Singapore

and Southeast Asia, while also offering new opportunities for shippers moving high-value and time-sensitive goods," said Michael Duggan, Head, Cargo, Oman Air.

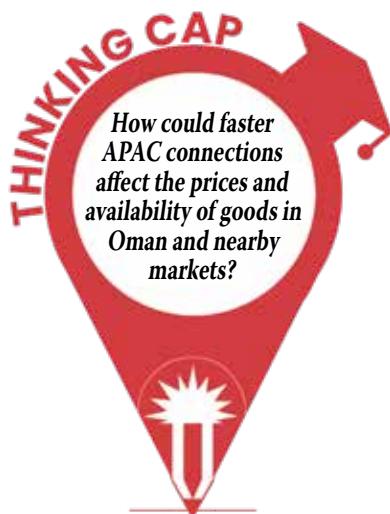
Oman Air Cargo plans to focus on specialised cargo on this route. Imports will include high-technology consumer goods, while exports from the Sultanate will target perishables, such as fresh fruit, seafood, and other temperature-sensitive products.

The flights will support cargo coming from Europe. Products such as flowers from Amsterdam, automotive parts, and fashion goods will reach Asia faster, thanks to the added capacity. This makes it easier for businesses to meet tight schedules and keep goods fresh or in high demand.

This expansion comes after Oman Air Cargo recently appointed five new GSAs and launched two new offline routes to Australia and Japan. These moves are part of the airline's plan to grow its global network and keep up with rising demand for fast and dependable cargo services. With the Singapore flights, Oman Air Cargo aims to give

shippers more flexibility and better connections across Asia. The service also strengthens Muscat's role as a central hub for trade between Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific regions.

The new route is likely to help businesses — from large exporters to small companies — to make it easier to ferry time-sensitive cargo efficiently across continents. ☀



(Third from left) Mike Rutter, CCO, Oman Air; (fourth from left) Con Korfiatis, CEO, Oman Air; (fourth from right) Syed Noureddin bin Syed Hassim, Charge d'Affaires and Minister-Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore, among others at the launch of direct flights between Oman and Singapore

Emirates SkyCargo expands freighters, tweaks digital toolkit

After a pivotal 2025, marked by fleet growth, new destinations, and digital innovation, the cargo industry enters this year with new hopes and goals. Looking back, the carrier reflects upon its achievements, while setting new plans for the year ahead, expanding its freighter fleet, exploring new trade routes, and introducing smart solutions.

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Emirates SkyCargo looks forward to building on the strong foundation laid in 2025. The airline strengthened its core pillars last year — expanding its network, innovating products, and enhancing operations — to deliver what customers need today and tomorrow.

"Last year, we built the runway for what comes next. This year is a pivotal one for



Badr Abbas
Divisional Senior Vice President,
Emirates SkyCargo

fleet expansion, with up to 10 Boeing 777Fs likely by this December. This new capacity unlocks opportunities for network growth, more flexible solutions, and greater value across our global operations," Badr Abbas, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo, said.

STRONGER FLEET, WIDER NETWORK

By this year-end, the carrier plans to operate at least 21 freighters, including converted

By this year-end, the carrier will operate 21 cargo flights, including converted passenger aircraft

passenger aircraft, increasing cargo capacity. In 2025, Emirates SkyCargo retired older aircraft, while adding new





Boeing 777Fs, operating 11 of them alongside five wet-leased Boeing 747s. The first converted passenger aircraft is set to enter operations as a freighter later this year.

The airline continued to expand its freighter network last year, launching services to eight new destinations — Copenhagen, Narita, Bangkok, Mumbai, Beirut, Conakry, Phnom Penh, and Hanoi — while increasing frequencies to high-volume routes, such as Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Johannesburg. By this year-end, Emirates SkyCargo would have reached 42 freighter destinations across six continents.

NEXT-GEN DELIVERY

The carrier aims to invest in next-gen delivery and sustainability. By early this year, five hydrogen-powered trucks will join the fleet, marking a key milestone in the company's gradual transition to alternative fuel vehicles. Exploring next-gen delivery solutions, Emirates SkyCargo and LODD

The carrier and LODD Autonomous are collaborating on the development of VTOL

Autonomous are collaborating on the development and feasibility of vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft for first-and-last-mile delivery.

Digital adoption continues to accelerate. By December 2025, 80 per cent of shipments were booked digitally via eSky-Cargo, third party marketplaces, and direct API integrations. The carrier became the first one in the region to adopt Pay-Cargo's instant payments solution, streamlining processes, and reducing reliance on traditional cash transactions. This year, the airline will enhance its digital toolkit, offering new features and tools to refine the customer journey. 

AT A GLANCE

- ❖ Expand freighter fleet to 21 aircraft, including 10 new Boeing 777Fs
- ❖ Add 20 new freighter destinations globally
- ❖ Introduce hydrogen-powered trucks for greener operations
- ❖ Trial VTOL aircraft for first-and-last-mile delivery
- ❖ Launch new digital tools to enhance booking and customer experience
- ❖ Expand Emirates Courier Express and specialised verticals: Fresh, Vital, Aerospace & Engineering, Secure

New hub in Jafza to ramp up Dubai's vehicle logistics

Dubai is a major hub for automotive logistics. Its location makes it a key centre for re-exports and distribution across the Gulf region and Africa, supported by advanced ports and free zones. Warehouses in Jafza handle automobiles and spare parts for storage, streamlining supply chains, and improving efficiency for hundreds of vehicles every year.

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Legend Holding Group is set to invest ₦500 million to develop a major automotive hub in the Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza), aiming to boost Dubai's vehicle storage, assembly, and export capabilities. The one million sqft facility will serve as a regional headquarters, motorcycle assembly line, and logistics centre for Legend Motors.

"Establishing our new headquarters and logistics complex in Jafza is a strategic step in our global expansion. This hub will strengthen our distribution network, improve efficiency, and support safe and sustainable solutions for the next phase of our growth," said Nagaraj Ponnada, General Manager, Legend Motors.

The new hub will support vehicle storage, preparation, distribution, and after-sales operations for 100 global

markets. Construction will take place in two phases, starting with a facility for 5,000 vehicles by April 2026. By January 2028, the site will expand into a multi-storey complex capable of handling 20,000 vehicles.

Once fully operational, the hub will manage close to 120,000 vehicles a year

The project is designed to integrate sustainable and advanced logistics solutions. Solar power systems will reduce energy consumption by up to 15 per cent, while automated systems will streamline vehicle management, improving efficiency and safety. A dedicated motorcycle assembly line will

produce up to 10,000 electric and conventional motorcycles annually for GCC markets. Once fully operational, the hub will manage 120,000 vehicles a year.



The development is expected to expand Jafza's automotive cluster, which already hosts over 940 companies and benefits from direct access to port and multimodal logistics

infrastructure. The project will create skilled jobs in logistics, engineering, and operations, while enhancing the UAE's capabilities in vehicle handling, assembly, and supply chain management.

Legend Holding Group's investment supports Dubai's efforts to create a world-class automotive ecosystem. The hub will support the growth of the Dubai Auto Market — a 22 million sqft project led by DP World — one of the largest integrated automotive trade hubs globally. With this investment, Dubai continues to position itself as a leading hub for automotive logistics, combining manufacturing, storage, and global export capabilities in a single integrated ecosystem.



(Clockwise) Mira Wu, Co-founder, Legend Holding Group; Kai Zheng, Founder, LHG; Abdulla Bin Damithan, CEO & MD, DP World GCC; Abdulla Al Hashmi, COO, Parks & Zones, DP World GCC; N Ponnada, GM, Legend Motors, and Ebtesam Al Kaab, SVP Jafza Sales

BRIEF OUTLOOK

- ❖ ₦500 million invested in the hub
- ❖ One million sqft facility in Jafza
- ❖ Capacity of 5,000 vehicles, expanding to over 20,000
- ❖ Will handle more than 120,000 vehicles annually
- ❖ Motorcycle line produces 10,000 units p.a.
- ❖ Supports distribution to more than 100 international markets

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- Cross Pattaya Oceanphere
- Cross Vibe Pattaya Seaphere

Chiang Mai

- Cross Chiang Mai Riverside
- Away Chiang Mai Thapae
- Cross Vibe Chiang Mai Decem

INDONESIA

Bali

- Cross Bali Breakers
- Cross Paasha Bali Seminyak
- Cross Vibe Paasha Atelier Bali Kuta

- Away Bali Legian Camakila

- Tanadewa Resort Ubud Bali by Cross Collection
- Tanadewa Villas Nusa Dua Bali by Cross Collection
- Kaura Bali



Shared platforms to link e-comm, pharma & ground ops in KSA

As KSA's logistics sector pushes deeper into digital transformation, partnerships between operators and tech providers are becoming commonplace. SAL Logistics Services and SPL Digital Services have partnered to explore how shared digital platforms can simplify logistics ops and improve end-to-end visibility across supply chains.

CT Bureau

SAL Logistics Services has partnered with SPL Digital Services to explore how digital tools can reshape the way logistics works in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The two firms have signed an agreement that focuses on building shared digital solutions designed around real operational needs rather than standalone systems.

"This collaboration with SPL Digital Services reflects our commitment to accelerating digital adoption within the logistics ecosystem and elevating the integration between field operations and digital platforms to a new level. Combining SAL's operational ability in SCM with SPL's capabilities in building digital platforms and data-driven solutions will enable us to develop innovative services that deliver an added value to our customers and support Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 objectives in establishing a world-class logistics sector and driving digital transformation in this vital industry," commented Dr Simon Hassannia, Chief Digital Officer, SAL.



Dr Simon Hassannia, Chief Digital Officer, SAL, and Saad Alqahtani, Chief Venture Officer and KSA Country Manager, SPL Digital Services at the agreement signing during the Supply Chain Conference in Riyadh

The collaboration spans several of SAL's core business areas, including e-commerce logistics, pharma handling, postal services, and ground operations. Instead of treating these segments separately, the partnership aims to connect them through common digital platforms to improve coordination across the supply chain.

At the heart of the pact is the goal of making logistics data easier to use. By unifying data flows and improving information quality, operational teams can respond faster, spot

The collab spans SAL's core biz areas, including e-commerce logistics, pharma, and ground ops

issues earlier, and plan movements more efficiently. For customers, this could translate

into clearer shipment visibility, smoother handovers, and fewer disruptions from the first mile through final delivery. Both firms will work together to design and roll out digital products for express carriers, merchants, and forwarders. These tools may support daily operations, while allowing room for future upgrades as volumes grow and requirements change.

To keep the collaboration practical, joint working groups and steering committees will guide implementation. Their role will be to track progress, measure results, and refine the solutions being developed. This approach is intended to ensure the partnership delivers improvements rather than be a technological concept.

By combining SAL's operational experience with SPL Digital's ability in platforms and data-driven services, the partnership aims to create solutions that are functional and scalable, supporting the evolving needs of the Kingdom's logistics ecosystem.



What the pact covers

- Joint development of digital logistics solutions
- Focus on e-commerce, pharma, postal, and ground handling
- Shared platforms for carriers, merchants, and forwarders
- Unified data and improved operational visibility

Why it matters

- Better decision-making through connected systems
- Improved customer experience from pickup to delivery
- Stronger collaboration between operations and technology
- Supports Saudi Arabia's digital and logistics ambitions

Global-local partnership powers UAE logistics expansion

With the UAE continuing to position itself as a regional trade and logistics hub, the demand for more supply chain infrastructure has become crucial. Strategic partnerships that combine international ability with local knowledge are becoming key to meeting the needs of businesses and investors alike.



CT Bureau

Gaw Capital Partners, a global investment firm, and Dubai-based GFH Partners have partnered to develop logistics and industrial projects across the UAE. The JV aims to address the growing demand for modern logistics facilities, particularly in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Ras Al Khaimah.

The partnership will focus on high-quality logistics developments, starting with pre-identified seed assets. Projects will be managed by Manre Developments, a JV between GFH and Palmon Group, a UAE industrial company. Their combined expertise covers acquisition, planning, design, construction, and operations, ensuring the warehouses and logistics centres are ready for today's fast-paced supply chain needs.

Commenting on the potential of the UAE logistics sector, Harry Ip, MD, Gaw Capital, said, "We see solid structural demand for logistics spaces, supported by government initiatives and growing global interest. Partnering with GFH allows us to deliver quality logistics assets



Harry Ip
Managing Director
Gaw Capital

The partnership will focus on high-quality logistics, starting with pre-identified seed assets

to meet this demand, which is backed by a favourable market habitat."

The UAE's logistics sector is receiving help from supportive government policies, including tax exemptions, free zone regulations, and relaxed foreign ownership rules. Population growth,

likely to reach 12.2 million by 2030, is increasing demand for efficient supply chain and warehouse solutions. At present, warehouse occupancy in Dubai has exceeded 97 per cent, with rents rising sharply and showing a clear supply-demand imbalance.

Recognising this opportunity, Gaw Capital is bringing extensive global logistics experience, having managed projects across China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and Australia, totalling 3.8 million sqm of warehouse space. Combined with GFH's regional knowledge, the JV is set to develop modern, scalable logistics hubs across the UAE. These facilities will feature flexible warehouse spaces, automated inventory systems, temperature-controlled zones, and advanced supply chain technology, making them suitable for e-commerce, retail, and industrial operations.

Emphasising the value of local expertise, Nael Mustafa, CEO, GFH Partners, said, "Our team brings on the ground knowledge in managing logistics assets across the region, including understanding regulatory needs, local market dynamics, and operational best

practices. This partnership enables us to expand that capability and support the UAE's rapid industrial growth." Beyond moving goods effectively, the developments are likely to attract investment, create jobs, and reinforce the UAE's position as a leading logistics hub. The JV also aims to set a benchmark for next-gen logistics infrastructure. 

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Building logistics hubs in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, RAK
- ❖ Combines global ability with local knowledge
- ❖ Flexible warehouses with smart systems and temperature control
- ❖ Serves e-commerce, retail sectors, and industrial supply chains
- ❖ Near ports, airports, and key transport routes
- ❖ Drives investment, jobs, and UAE logistics growth

KSA's new logistics park to help accelerate sector digitalisation

KSA has taken a vital step in modernising its logistics sector with the inauguration of the Agility Logistics Park in Jeddah. The SAR 611 million project, developed by ALP, is one of the Kingdom's largest private-sector investments in logistics. The park is designed to strengthen the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's position as a regional and global trade hub.

CT Bureau

Spread across 576,760 sqm, with 338,000 sqm of built-up area, the logistics park includes six modern Grade-A warehouses built to global standards in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The facility is designed to serve fast-growing retail, consumer goods, technology, automotive, energy, and e-commerce. It is prepared to host data centres, supporting KSA's drive toward advanced digital infrastructure.

Located in Al Mahjar, 11 km away from Jeddah Islamic Port, and 15 km from downtown, the park is housed at a spot along the western trade corridor. This location allows businesses to move goods faster and more efficiently, improving supply chain performance, and reducing delays.

The park connects to national trade networks, including the expanded port and the planned Landbridge, helping the Kingdom strengthen its position as a regional logistics hub.

His Excellency Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser, Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, KSA,



His Excellency Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser, Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, and Tarek Sultan, Chairman, Agility Global, at the inauguration of the logistics park in Jeddah

The facility serves consumer goods, tech auto, energy, and e-commerce and also hosts data centres

said, "Investments, such as the logistics park show our commitment to building modern logistics networks that



strengthen supply chains, back businesses, and create new economic opportunities."

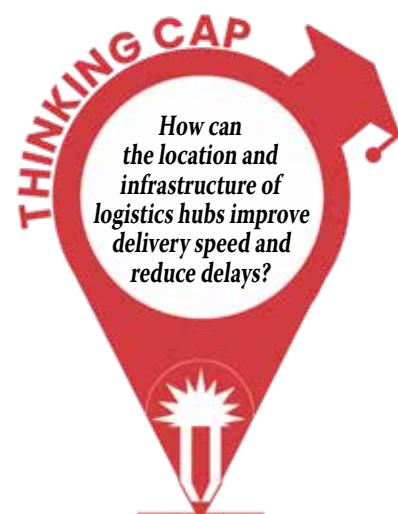
VISION 2030 GOALS

The Jeddah facility is part of a plan by Agility to support KSA's logistics ecosystem under Vision 2030. The company manages logistics parks in Riyadh and

Dammam, providing modern infra that enables businesses to scale and meet rising demand.

"The park's inauguration is part of our long-term commitment to invest in KSA and advance its logistics ecosystem under Vision 2030. By adding a Grade-A logistics Park in Jeddah, linked to national trade corridors anchored by the expanded Jeddah Islamic Port and the future Landbridge, we are taking part in KSA's efforts to power supply chains, enhance efficiency, and build resilience. The park in Jeddah delivers speed, reliability, and sustainability for firms in one of the region's dynamic gateways," said Tarek Sultan, Chairman, Agility Global.

These projects help create jobs, attract investment, and improve efficiency across KSA. They prepare the Kingdom to handle growth of e-commerce and industrial activity, while supporting the development of local talent and advanced logistics services.



Robots make last-mile logistics faster and smarter across Gulf

In a region where e-commerce is growing by the day, the primary challenge is getting products quickly and efficiently to the users. In response to this rapid growth and high demand, robots are emerging as the solution. Yango Group and noon are rewriting how products are moved, using autonomous robots for last-mile delivery.

CT Bureau

Yango Group, a global technology company, and noon, one of the Middle East's leading e-commerce platforms, have partnered to scale autonomous robot deliveries across the region. The move marks a step forward in urban logistics, using robots to make last-mile deliveries faster, more efficient, and sustainable.

The first rollout took place in Dubai's Sobha Hartland community, where residents can choose robot delivery in the noon app, track it live on a map, and unlock the secure compartment when it arrives. This gives customers a contactless, technology-driven delivery option, while integrating seamlessly into noon's existing logistics network.

"This partnership is a key step in making autonomous delivery a regular part of life across the UAE and the GCC. By combining Yango's AI-powered robots with noon's solid e-commerce presence, we are shaping the future of logistics in cities and supporting more sustainable urban mobility," said Islam Abdul Karim, Regional Head, Yango Group Middle East.

MODERN DELIVERY SOLUTION

The partnership aims to expand across Dubai, the UAE, and eventually the wider GCC. By using real-time operational data and customer feedback, the companies plan to optimise delivery routes, improve efficiency, and meet the growing demand for fast and reliable urban logistics.

"Partnering with Yango Group allows us to bring a modern delivery solution straight to our customers," said Ali Kafil-Hussain, Chief Business Officer, noon. "Autonomous robots give us extra capacity during peak times, reduce traffic congestion, lower emissions, and make our logistics network smarter and more resilient."

The partnership aims to expand across Dubai, the UAE, and eventually, the GCC region

The fully electric robots independently plan routes, navigate obstacles, and yield to pedestrians. During earlier test runs



(Second from left) Islam Abdul Karim, Regional Head, Middle East, Yango Group and (third from left) Gianluca Marchiori, Vice President, Logistics, noon Minutes

(pilot projects) in Dubai, the robots covered over 1,500 km autonomously, proving their ability to handle real-world delivery challenges.

Approved by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) to run on public walkways and in residential areas, the robots support the city's push for smart, sustainable mobility. The collaboration shows

how AI-enabled logistics solutions are becoming a practical part of daily life, helping businesses across the Middle East deliver goods faster, more efficiently, and in a secure manner. 

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ First autonomous robot deliveries in Sobha Hartland, Dubai
- ❖ Track deliveries live and unlock compartments via noon app
- ❖ Robots plan routes, avoid obstacles, and yield to pedestrians
- ❖ 1,500 km completed in Dubai pilots
- ❖ Fully electric and eco-friendly, reducing congestion and emissions

New centralised control room to manage screening at DXB

Growth in the industry is no longer just about moving goods, but about finding ways to manage complexity without slowing systems down. As volumes rise, the challenges for ground handlers are speed, security, visibility, and consistency. Against this backdrop, dnata has taken a step to rethink how cargo is screened at DXB.



Members of dnata along with Dubai Police officers at the inauguration of the centralised screening control room jointly designed by dnata and Dubai Police

CT Bureau

With the flow of cargo into the country rising day-by-day and warehouses getting busier, the need to efficiently handle shipments has become crucial. To this end, dnata has taken a step in how cargo is screened at the Dubai International Airport (DXB) with the launch of a new centralised control room developed alongside Dubai Police.

The initiative aims to make everyday cargo operations smoother, faster, and easier to manage at a time when volumes are growing rapidly. "This project is a milestone in dnata's journey towards smarter, more efficient cargo handling," said Guillaume Crozier, Chief Cargo Officer, dnata. "By collaborating with Dubai Police, we have introduced a model that strengthens security, boosts efficiency, and reflects Dubai's commitment to innovation."



Guillaume Crozier
Chief Cargo Officer
dnata

The initiative aims to make everyday cargo ops smoother, faster, and easier to manage

CENTRALISED SCREENING

Earlier, cargo screening was spread across different areas

of the warehouses. Officers had to be physically present at each location, which meant more movement, more manual checks, and slower decision-making. Following the launch of the new system, everything has been brought together in one control room. From here, Dubai Police officers can operate, and monitor six X-ray machines installed across dnata's cargo facility.

These machines are linked to dnata's digital cargo platform, One Cargo. The system allows data from screenings to be shared instantly, helping reduce delays, and enabling teams to respond faster. With fewer manual steps involved, cargo moves through the facility smoothly. dnata estimates this new setup will improve throughput by around 3 per cent each year.

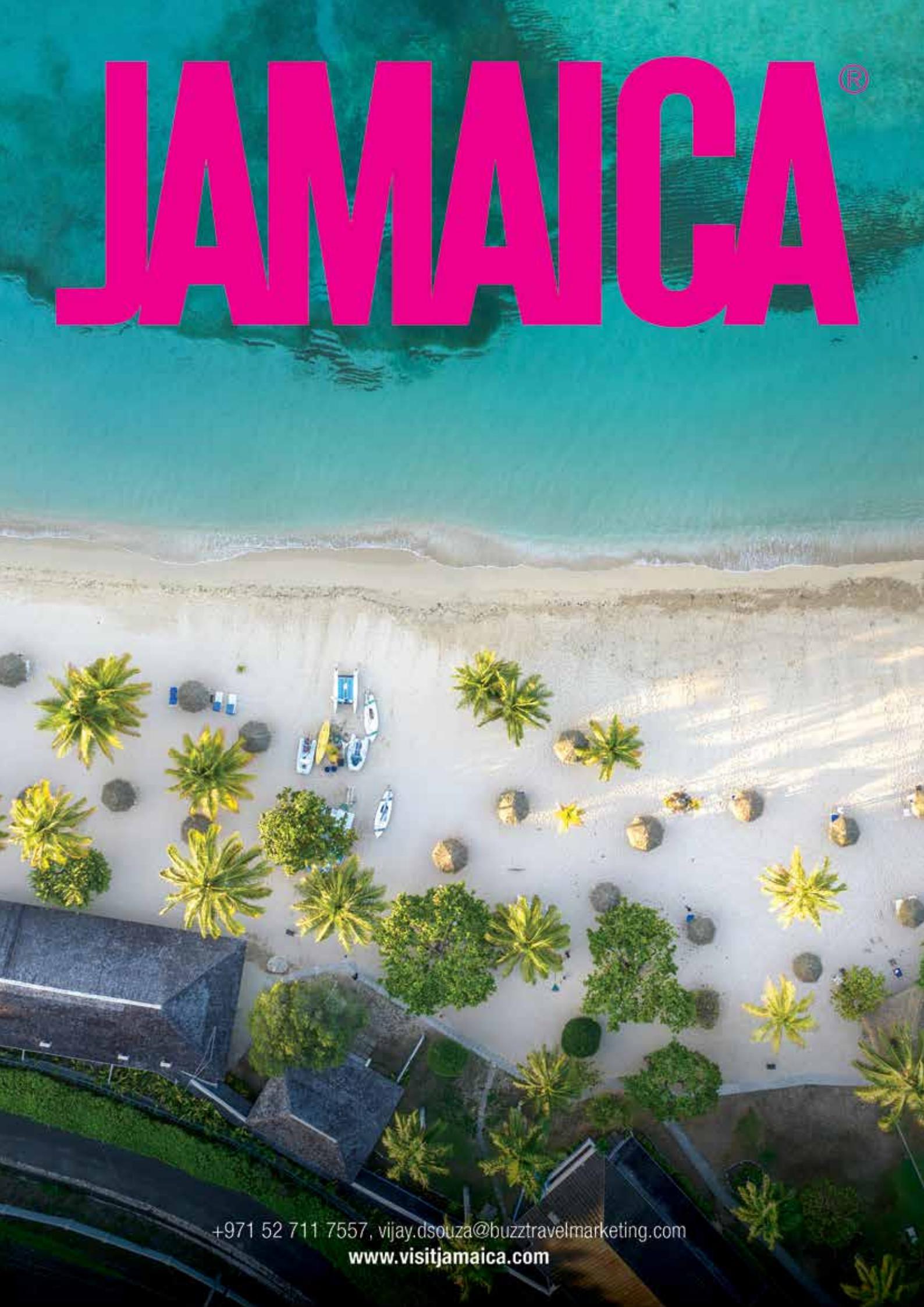
Volumes at DXB have been rising steadily, with dnata handling 60,000 tonnes each month and recently surpassing

one million tonnes in a single year across Dubai airports. This growth mirrors a wider trend in the city, driven by e-commerce, a growing consumer base, and Dubai's role as a global transit hub.

Beyond speed, the new centralised system also helps reduce unnecessary cargo movement inside the warehouse. Fewer touchpoints mean less internal transport, which, in turn, reduces the use of fuel and improves overall efficiency. Advanced data and analytics also assist dnata to plan resources better, instead of reacting to the bottlenecks.

What stands out is the coordination between dnata and Dubai Police. The control room was designed to support daily screening needs and secondary checks, with live imaging, monitoring tools, and automated reports ensuring every shipment can be tracked through the process. 

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First one-stop helipark for aviation, digitisation in Riyadh

Riyadh Integrated is growing into something more than a logistics zone. It is focused on bringing together logistics, technology, and aviation services under one platform. The recent pacts with JINGDONG Property and Rotortrade show how the zone is attracting companies that are setting up long-term operations in Saudi Arabia.

CT Bureau

Riyadh Integrated is steadily taking shape as one of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's (KSA) most important logistics and aviation ecosystems, as new global partnerships add to its role in the Kingdom's economic transformation. Two of its recent agreements: One with JINGDONG Property and another with Rotortrade, highlight how the zone is attracting technology-led logistics players and high-value aviation services under a single platform.

The agreements come shortly after SILZ's recent collaborations with SAL and DHL, aimed at delivering seamless, end-to-end supply chain solutions, and supporting the growth of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's e-commerce sector.



Dr Fadi Al-Buhairan
Chief Executive Officer
SILZ

LOGISTICS SYSTEMS

The Special Integrated Logistics Zone Company (SILZ), which develops and operates Riyadh Integrated, has partnered with JINGDONG Property, the infra and asset management arm of China's JD.com. The pact will see the development of a technology-driven logistics and supply chain hub within the bonded

zone, with JD Logistics set to manage warehouse operations once the facility is completed.

The planned hub will be built on a plot of 40,000 sqm and is designed to support high-demand sectors such as electronics and information and communications technology. JINGDONG Property will bring its proprietary intelligent logistics systems to the site, aiming to reduce processing times and improve efficiency across warehousing and fulfillment operations. Automation, digital operations management, and optimised traffic flows within the facility are likely to support fast air freight transfers and cross-docking activities.

"By giving 40,000 sqm to one of the world's most advanced logistics technology leaders, we are not just renting land; we are enabling a

future-ready ecosystem. This reflects our 'Integrated' value proposition, where world-class financial incentives meet unparalleled airside access, allowing global giants, such as JD.com to localise their innovation and talent in Riyadh," commented Dr Fadi Al-Buhairan, Chief Executive Officer, SILZ

Located next to King Khalid International Airport, the hub will allow firms to move goods quickly between air cargo operations and stor-

The pact will see the development of a tech-driven logistics and supply chain hub within the zone



(Sitting) Feng Guo, General Manager, JD.com Middle East, and Dr Fadi Al-Buhairan, CEO, SILZ, along with other members of SILZ and JINGDONG Property at the signing ceremony

age facilities. This airside access, combined with the zone's regulatory and fiscal advantages, is a key factor in attracting global logistics players looking to serve the Middle East and beyond. Beyond infrastructure, the project is also expected to create new job opportunities and support the localisation of advanced logistics skills in the Kingdom.

HELIPARK

Alongside logistics, aviation services are becoming another core pillar of Riyadh Integrated. SILZ has signed an agreement with Rotortrade to launch a regional helicopter services hub known as Heli-park. The facility will occupy a dedicated 20,000 sqm within



the zone and is designed to be the first fully integrated, one-stop helicopter services centre in the MENA region.

Helipark will bring together a range of services under one roof. These include helicopter sales, management, maintenance, repair operations, customisation, painting, and parts-out logistics. By disassembling retired aircraft into resalable components, the facility will also function as a regional spare parts distribution centre. This integrated setup is intended to reduce the need for operators in the region to rely on overseas service providers.

Commenting on the new facility, Philippe Lubrano, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Rotortrade said, "It is more than just a facility — it

is a destination. Clients will be able to explore our aircraft, enjoy premium hospitality, and access comprehensive end-to-end services under one roof. This project reflects our ambition to establish Rotortrade as the world's leading global helicopter dealership and provides a unique value proposition not seen anywhere else in the rotorcraft industry."

Rotortrade's decision to locate Helipark at Riyadh Integrated reflects a broader shift toward localising advanced aviation services in the Kingdom. The facility is also expected to support civilian and commercial helicopter operators, while creating specialised technical roles for Saudi professionals. Initial operations are expected to begin soon, adding momentum to the zone's development.

Together, the JINGDONG Property logistics hub and the Rotortrade Helipark illustrate how Riyadh Integrated is evolving beyond a traditional industrial zone. Instead of focusing on a single sector, the

This setup is intended to reduce the need for operators to rely on overseas service providers

zone is positioning itself as a multifunctional ecosystem combining logistics, aviation, technology, and high-value

services. This mix allows various industries to benefit from shared infrastructure, streamlined regulations, and proximity to air cargo operations.

These developments align closely with Saudi Vision 2030 and the National Transport and Logistics Strategy, which aim to strengthen the Kingdom's position as a global logistics hub, while creating skilled jobs for Saudi nationals. By attracting anchor tenants with various abilities, SILZ is helping to bring advanced technologies and operational know-how into local markets. As more international companies set up operations at Riyadh Integrated, the zone is seen as a gateway for regional and global trade. 



Highlights

- Located within the bonded zone at Riyadh Integrated
- Deployment of intelligent logistics systems and automation
- Designed for fast air-freight transfers and cross-docking
- Supports skills localisation and job creation in logistics
- Strengthens Riyadh's role in global and regional supply chains

Helipark

- First one-stop Helipark in the MENA region
- Parts-out logistics and regional spare parts distribution centre
- Reduces reliance on overseas aviation service providers
- Supports civilian and commercial helicopter operators
- Creates specialised technical jobs for Saudi talent



UAE, Egypt to deepen economic partnership via CEPA

The UAE and Egypt are planning an economic partnership to build ties, support industry growth, and create long-term benefits for both nations. The agreement is likely to make cross-border trade easier and open new opportunities for businesses. They could collaborate in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and renewable energy.

 CT Bureau

The UAE and Egypt are moving closer to strengthening their trade ties with a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The agreement aims to create smoother pathways for businesses, boost investment, and open new opportunities across multiple sectors.

Bilateral non-oil trade between the UAE and Egypt reached around US\$ 8.4 billion in 2024, growing 21 per cent

from the previous year. This rapid growth underlines the UAE's position as Egypt's leading trade partner in the GCC and a key hub for the Arab world. The trade agreement is expected to further accelerate trade flows, particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, and renewable energy.

"Investing in our relationship with Egypt is crucial for both nations. The CEPA will launch a new era of cooperation, boosting trade, investment flows, and sustainable growth," said His Excellency

The UAE's CEPA is to fortify global trade links and position the region as a leading global trade hub

Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade, UAE.

The UAE's CEPA initiative is part of a strategy to strengthen global trade links and position the country as a leading global trade hub. With 31 pacts signed and 14 already in effect, the programme has helped UAE businesses access high-growth markets and contributed to record trade levels, which reached US\$ 810 billion in 2024.

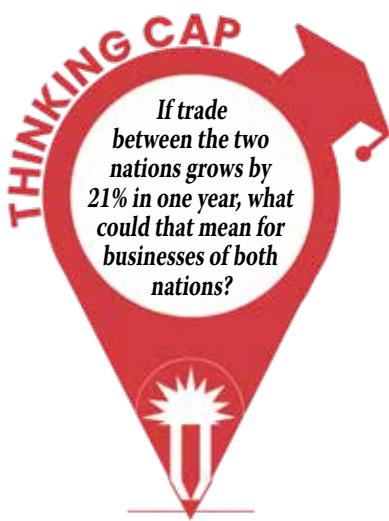
TRADE LANDSCAPE
CEPA is expected to enhance private collaboration, encourage JVs, and create long-term opportunities for exporters and investors from both countries. Analysts say the agreement could reshape the trade landscape, making it easier for the firms to trade across



His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade, UAE, and His Excellency Hassan Al-Khatib, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt during a discussion

borders and support sustainable economic growth.

For the UAE and Egypt, CEPA represents more than just trade numbers, it is a step toward deeper economic partnership, stronger industrial links, and a shared vision for a thriving, diversified economy. Businesses in both countries are likely to receive benefits from easier market access, better regulatory alignment, and a boost in cross-border commerce that could define the region's economic future. 



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Abu Dhabi begins tests to ferry blood samples via drones

LODD Autonomous is once again showcasing its capabilities through impactful drone delivery operations. After recent collaborations with logistics and forwarders, the company is expanding into healthcare logistics and reaching out to remote areas. The trial will help them understand how drones can be integrated into medical operations.

CT Bureau

Among all the innovative things Abu Dhabi is doing to stand out globally, the emirate is now testing a new way to move medical samples across the city — by drones. PureLab and LODD Autonomous are testing a drone-based system to trans-

port blood samples between medical facilities using unmanned aerial vehicles, cutting travel time, and easing pressure on road transport. Backed by the Abu Dhabi Investment Office, the trial is being carried out by PureLab, which runs one of the region's largest medical laboratory networks, together with LODD Autonomous.

At the centre of the pilot is a regular drone route between Sheikh Khalifa Medical City and PureLab's headquarters. Instead of relying on vehicles that must navigate traffic and long routes, these drones fly directly between locations. This can reduce transport times from hours to minutes, especially during busy periods or

emergencies. "This pilot project is a real-world demonstration of how autonomous aviation can enhance healthcare logistics through fast, safe, and sustainable medical transport solutions," said Rashid Al Manai, CEO, LODD Autonomous.

When it comes to blood samples, speed matters and



trips. If scaled up, drone transport could help reduce the environmental footprint of healthcare logistics in the city. The trial will help the authorities understand how drones can be safely integrated into daily medical ops. Data from the flights may support future rules, standards, and operating models for medical drone use.

"Every minute we save in transporting blood samples is a minute added to the life of a patient awaiting diagnosis. By integrating smart air transport technologies with our diagnostic network, we are speeding up delivery and contributing to the development of the wider care system. This project reflects our belief that innovation in healthcare should serve people faster, smarter, and with environmental responsibility. It stands out as an example of Abu Dhabi's vision to turn sustainability and automation into a tangible reality," said Arindam Halder, CEO, PureLab.

While the project is still in its nascent stages, it reflects a broader push in Abu Dhabi to test the practical uses of autonomous technology. Healthcare is seen as a starting point, where small improvements in efficiency can have a direct impact on lives. Based on its success, the drone network will be expanded to connect more hospitals, clinics, and laboratories. What is being tested today as a pilot may soon become a regular part of how medical services move critical samples across the emirate. Quietly, quickly, and above the traffic on the ground.

LODD, NOON MINUTES

LODD Autonomous has partnered with noon Minutes to launch autonomous drone delivery services in Liwa, marking a major step in enabling fast logistics in remote areas. LODD Autonomous and noon carried out the first autonomous delivery operation using drones in the city of Liwa in the Al Dhafra Region, with the support of the Smart and Autonomous Systems Council and under the supervision of the Integrated Transport Centre (Abu Dhabi Mobility).

most tests are time-sensitive. Faster delivery can lead to quicker diagnosis and treatment decisions. By shortening the time it takes for the samples to reach laboratories, healthcare teams can respond quickly to patient needs. Safety has been a key focus of the project. The drones are designed to carry medical samples securely, while maintaining the required temperature and handling standards. Each flight follows pre-approved routes and operates under strict monitoring to ensure reliability and control.

On the other hand, amidst the urgency to save lives and upgrade healthcare logistics, the project is being watched closely from a sustainability angle too. Drones produce fewer emissions compared to traditional delivery vehicles, especially for short, repeated



Arindam Halder, CEO, PureLab, and Rashid Al Manai, CEO, LODD Autonomous, at the signing of the partnership between the two companies

What is being tested today may soon become a part of how critical samples will be moved

The collaboration aims to deliver groceries and small parcels to customers, even in challenging desert terrain. The pilot service links desert campsites and distant locations in Liwa to nearby fulfilment points, cutting delivery times and reducing dependence on traditional road transport. Using autonomous drones, the service allows essential items

to be delivered quickly and safely to places that are often difficult to reach.

LODD Autonomous stated the initiative highlights how drone tech can support last-mile delivery beyond cities. The drones are designed to operate with high precision and minimal human intervention, ensuring reliable service in harsh weather and isolated environments. For noon Minutes, the partnership supports its goal of expanding ultra-fast delivery to more locations across the United Arab Emirates. The project shows how advanced logistics solutions can improve access to daily essentials for residents, tourists, and campers in remote regions.

LODD for medical care

- Drones carry blood samples between Sheikh Khalifa Medical City and PureLab HQ
- Reduces transport time from hours to minutes
- Ensures secure handling and temperature control of samples
- Operates on pre-approved routes under strict monitoring
- Speeds up diagnosis and treatment decisions

LODD in remote areas

- First autonomous drone delivery in Liwa's Al Dhafra Region
- Supported by Smart and Autonomous Systems Council and Abu Dhabi Mobility
- Delivers groceries and parcels to desert camps and remote locations
- Drones operate with high precision and minimal human intervention

Pharma logistics, healthcare stretching into Saudi Arabia

Julphar's expansion into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reflects its commitment to strengthening regional health security. The facility reflects a commitment to back regional health security and advancing local pharma manufacturing in line with the highest global standards, says **Sheikh Saqr bin Humaid Al Qasimi, Chairman, Julphar**.

CT Bureau

Julphar, a UAE-based pharmaceutical company, is strengthening pharmaceutical logistics in the Middle East by expanding into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and setting up a new manufacturing facility in Jeddah. The project aims to improve local production, streamline supply chains, and support regional health security, while aligning with Saudi Vision 2030.

"The establishment of Julphar's pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in the Kingdom marks a milestone in our expansion journey. It reflects our commitment to supporting regional health security and advancing local pharmaceutical manufacturing in line with the highest global standards. We are proud to contribute to KSA's industrial development and to support the objectives of Vision 2030 through technology transfer, localisation of expertise, and creation of sustainable industrial capabilities for future generations," said Sheikh Saqr bin Humaid Al Qasimi, Chairman, Julphar.



Sheikh Saqr bin Humaid Al Qasimi
Chairman, Julphar

The facility, situated in Modon 3rd Industrial City, has been placed in one of the Kingdom's main industrial zones to optimise transport and distribution. The location allows efficient movement of raw materials and finished products, connected directly to road networks, ports, and potential air cargo hubs. This ensures faster delivery to hospitals, pharmacies, and distribution centres across KSA and neighbouring GCC nations.

DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

With an investment of SAR 300 million, the facility covers 45,000 sqm and is designed



for high-efficiency pharma logistics. Advanced warehouse systems, temperature-controlled storage, and automated inventory management will keep product quality, especially for biologics and sterile injectables that require strict handling conditions. Proper storage, tracking, and transport are critical for ensuring that sensitive pharma reach patients safely and on time.

"Logistics is central to the project's success. Efficient transport, storage, and distribution systems are key to meeting growing demand for critical care and chronic disease medications. The combination of advanced manufacturing and optimised logistics positions Saudi Arabia as a strategic hub for pharmaceutical production and distribution in the Middle East. By focusing on both production and supply chain excellence, Julphar is setting a new standard for pharmaceutical

Julphar to integrate the facility into its global supply chain, which serves more than 40 countries

logistics, ensuring safe, timely, and reliable delivery of medicines across the region and beyond," Dr Basel Ziyadeh, Chief Executive Officer, Julphar, said.

Julphar plans to integrate the facility into its international supply chain, which serves more than 40 countries. The plant will serve as a regional export hub, enabling timely shipments to international markets, including the USA. Streamlined logistics operations will reduce lead times, minimise stockouts, and improve overall reliability of pharma deliveries. 

At a glance

- Situated at Modon 3rd Industrial City, Jeddah
- The facility covers 45,000 sqm of land
- Built with an investment of SAR 300 million
- The facility can create up to 1,400 new jobs
- Advanced warehouses and temperature-controlled storage
- Biologics, injectables, oral solid dosage forms

Connectivity

- Strategic location for fast transport and distribution
- Direct access to roads, ports, and air hubs
- Supplies GCC countries and global markets, including the US
- Reduced lead times and fewer stockouts
- Part of Julphar's global supply chain in 40 plus countries
- Training for local talent in supply chain

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AWOT's regional HQ to support ops across GCC, Europe, Africa

As global trade evolves, cities combining strategic location with advanced infrastructure are becoming key gateways for supply chains. Dubai is emerging as one such hub, attracting leading logistics firms such as AWOT and strengthening its role as a centre for trade and supply chain operations in the Middle East.

CT Bureau

With its strategic location and openness to welcoming global logistics leaders, Dubai is strengthening its own infrastructure and supporting the growth of global supply chains across the region. AWOT Global Logistics Corporation has opened its first regional headquarters in Dubai Airport Freezone (DAFZ), part of the Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority (DIEZ). This move reflects AWOT's confidence in the emirate as a reliable centre for supply chain and logistics operations.

The new headquarters, opened by Arif Al Khouri, Senior Vice President, Customer Services, DAFZ, along with senior officials from AWOT, marks a vital step in AWOT's plan to expand its presence across the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, leveraging Dubai's strategic location and advanced logistics infra.

Arif Al Khouri said, "AWOT's decision to set up its regional headquarters in Dubai Airport Freezone demonstrates the strength of Dubai's integrated business ecosystem. Our infrastructure and location allow firms to manage complex supply chains efficiently and expand into new markets with confidence. We are committed to providing the tools, networks, and support that global logistics leaders need to succeed in the region."

From Dubai, AWOT will oversee air, sea, and land



(Extreme left) Chris Yang, GM, AWOT MENA Region, (Extreme right) Arif Al Khouri, Senior Vice President, Customer Services, DAFZ, and others at the inauguration of AWOT Global Logistics Corporation in Dubai Airport Freezone (DAFZ)



Arif Al Khouri
Senior Vice President
Customer Services, DAFZ

The regional HQ reinforces Dubai's role as a global logistics hub and gateway to Asia, Europe, and the Gulf

freight, specialised cargo, and project logistics, while coordinating regional and global partnerships. The headquarters will

enable the use of cloud-based digital solutions, advanced tracking, and analytics tools to streamline operations and enhance supply chain visibility. AWOT's presence in Dubai gives it the ability to respond faster to market demands, coordinate with partners, and manage complex logistics efficiently. DAFZ will continue to provide regulatory support and link AWOT to a network of logistics service providers, distributors, and customs authorities, helping the company scale operations smoothly.

The AWOT regional HQ reinforces Dubai's role as a global logistics hub. It positions the emirate as a gateway linking Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, while providing AWOT with a platform to expand its services, improve operational efficiency, and deliver high-quality logistics solutions across the region. "Dubai provides an ideal platform to lead and scale our integrated logistics solutions, thanks to its

advanced logistics infra, EoDB, and its location connecting key global markets," said Chris Yang, General Manager, AWOT MENA region. 

QUICK GLANCE

- ❖ AWOT opens first regional HQ in Dubai Airport Freezone
- ❖ Fortifies Dubai's role as a Middle East logistics hub
- ❖ Supports ops across the Gulf, Africa, and Europe
- ❖ Manages air, sea, land freight, and project logistics
- ❖ Uses cloud-based tracking and analytics for efficiency

Designed for modern logistics, DSV opens warehouse in Dubai

For the UAE, logistics is more than just moving goods; it shapes how trade operates across the region. DSV's new Dubai hub shows how companies are building smarter, safer, and faster ways to manage supply chains. The facility reflects the importance of technology and highlights how safety and efficiency go hand in hand in modern logistics.

CT Bureau

Dubai has always been known as the hub of trade and logistics in the Middle East and to reinforce its position and strengthen its role, DSV has reached a milestone with the construction of its new 30,000 sqm logistics hub in Dubai. The facility combines scale, technology, and strategic location to serve businesses across the Middle East, Africa, and the like. The warehouse, situated in Jebel Ali South, is set to become an important node in Dubai's trade network, offering access to seaports, air cargo terminals, and major road corridors.

The hub has achieved 500,000 safe man-hours during construction, with zero lost-time injuries, highlighting the focus on safety and operational discipline across the site. Teams on the ground have worked to maintain health and safety standards, while keeping the project on schedule for completion in February 2026, with operations expected to start in March.

WAREHOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

Designed for modern logistics needs, the warehouse features 74,000 pallet positions, a 22-metre-high bay warehouse with in-rack sprinklers, 25 dock doors, and four ramps to support loading and unloading. It includes a 4,000 sqm mezzanine for value-added services such as packaging and kitting, alongside 3,840 sqm of shaded outdoor storage. Temperature-controlled chambers cater to pharma, healthcare, and FMCG cold chain



Chrys Mendonca
Managing Director
DSV Dubai

The hub has achieved 500k safe man-hours during construction, with zero lost-time in injuries

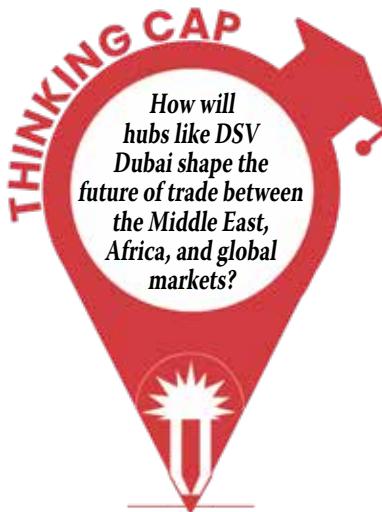
operations, and the facility is Ministry of Health-approved for controlled goods. DSV has equipped the site with full warehouse management and

RF-enabled systems, ensuring end-to-end traceability, and real-time inventory control. Security, fire protection, and environmental standards are a priority, with 24x7 monitoring and LEED Silver certification.

"The project reflects the company's long-term commitment to the region. The hub's combination of location, size, and technology gives the company an advantage,

helping businesses move goods faster, manage supply chains more efficiently, and connect seamlessly across local and international markets," said Chrys Mendonca, Managing Director, DSV Dubai.

As Dubai continues to strengthen its position as a global logistics hub, DSV's new facility is set to play a vital role in shaping the region's supply chain landscape. ☀



Ethiopian Airlines hosts gala for customer engagement

Ethiopian Airlines Cargo recently hosted a Customer Engagement Brunch as a gesture of appreciation. The event brought together partners and stakeholders, reinforcing the airline's commitment to relationships and ongoing collaborations. The gathering underscored the carrier's dedication to service excellence.



Drone cargo service takes Oman logistics to the skies

Drones are transforming how e-commerce and critical cargo are delivered, as well as how the oil & gas sector moves equipment in Oman. These unmanned flights cut delivery times, improve safety, and make 24x7 logistics possible. Behind this innovation is ESBAAR, the Omani technology company leading the charge.

CT Bureau

ESBAAR has launched the Middle East's first advanced drone-based air cargo service for the oil & gas sector, taking a big step for smart logistics in Oman. The company is working with Masar Petroleum and using locally manufactured drones from SINAN Advanced Industries to handle long distances and tough weather conditions. This new approach is changing how critical supplies move, making deliveries faster, safer, and possible 24x7.

"Integrating drone-based cargo transport into our operational processes contributes to enhancing efficiency and elevating safety standards," said Eng. Yahya Al Yaqubi, Production Supervisor, Masar Petroleum.

The first mission involved transporting spare parts for oil production equipment from Haima to Masar Petroleum's site in Concession Area No. 7, covering 137 km. The drones completed the trip in just one hour and 23 minutes. By comparison, the same journey by road could have taken more than four hours and might have needed night driving, which is restricted in oil & gas concession areas. With drones, deliveries can happen day or night without disrupting production schedules.

Using drones for air cargo brings several benefits. It allows teams to respond quickly to emergencies, keeps equipment moving without delays, and reduces the risks associated with transporting goods



Yahya Al Yaqubi
Production Supervisor
Masar Petroleum

The drones completed the trip in just over one hour. The same journey takes over four hours by road

over long distances in remote areas. This technology creates the foundation for a more integrated logistics network, where multiple sites can be connected through dedicated aerial corridors.

ESBAAR's drone operations are built to scale. While the first focus is oil & gas, the company sees opportunities to expand into other sectors that rely on prompt and reliable logistics. By connecting production sites, warehouses, and service centres through drone corridors, ESBAAR aims to streamline supply chains and improve operational efficiency across multiple industries.

The initiative also highlights Oman's growing capabilities in technology and

innovation. It shows how local talent, manufacturing, and advanced platforms can come together to solve real logistical challenges. The project aligns with Oman Vision 2040, supporting the development of knowledge-based industries, and promoting sectors driven by technology and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Malik Al Toubi, Co-founder and Director, Advanced Air Mobility, ESBAAR, said, "From the beginning, our focus has been on adopting and developing local capabilities to support advanced air mobility solutions that can address real and complex logistical challenges in vital sectors, foremost among them the oil and gas sector."

WHY DRONE CARGO?

- ❖ Dramatically reduces delivery time compared to road transport
- ❖ Operates day and night, including in remote and restricted areas
- ❖ Enhances safety and reduces production downtime
- ❖ Shows Oman's ability to use local technology talent to solve real logistics challenges



Qatar to enhance Customs valuation through AI systems

As Qatar enters the new year, the country is positioning itself as a global hub for trade by developing a resilient and advanced cargo ecosystem. This year is about fortifying cargo and logistics ops, positioning Qatar for sustained growth in regional and global supply chains, says **His Excellency Ahmed bn Abdullah Al Jamal, Chairman, GAC**.

CT Bureau

Even as Qatar looks ahead to the new year with renewed hopes for the cargo sector, the General Authority of Customs (GAC) handled millions of customs declarations through air, sea, land, and free-zone points, reflecting smooth operations across all cargo modes in 2025. Air freight continues to lead, with Hamad International Airport and Qatar Airways Cargo handling high-value and time-sensitive goods efficiently. Sea and land cargo remain crucial, supporting imports, exports, and regional trade through Hamad Port and land border crossings.



His Excellency Ahmed bin
Abdullah Al Jamal
Chairman, GAC

This momentum is expected to carry into the new year, supported by the activity recorded in December last. During the month, air cargo

reached 568,658 tonnes, land cargo totalled 21,423 tonnes, sea shipments stood at 17,810 tonnes, and 607,891 customs declarations were processed across all ports. The figures reflect the efficiency of Qatar's trade infra and its expanding role in global supply chains. His Excellency Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Jamal, Chairman, GAC, said, "We have achieved several milestones as part of our mandate to secure the movement of goods and ease trade. These include advances in human resources, technology systems, regulatory procedures, and closer coordination with domestic and international partners."

Much of this progress has been achieved by digital transformation. Digital systems, such as the Al Nadeeb platform continue to automate customs clearance, improve container tracking, and speed up inspections. Integration with the International Road Transport Union's electronic TIR carnet system has streamlined cross-border trucking, making regional land transport more reliable. Automation, AI, and data-driven reporting have strengthened risk management while cutting down delays, so that goods reach their destinations quickly and in time.

PLANS AHEAD

Planning to expand its cargo capabilities, Qatar has invested in digital services, advanced inspection technology, and robotic process automation to reduce manual checks and improve efficiency. The GAC aims to enhance Customs valuation, unify integration

platforms, and expand AI-driven operational processes, ensuring faster, more exact cargo processing.

HE Al Jamal said training and institutional development remain a priority. Customs staff continue to receive education in logistics and customs administration, supporting operational excellence and safety. Partnerships with the private sector, including expansion of the Authorised Economic Operator programme, will ease smoother trade and encourage compliance among trusted operators. Qatar's focus is on building an efficient, advanced, and resilient cargo ecosystem. By combining infra, digital tools, and global cooperation, the country is positioning itself as a reliable hub for global trade. ☀



AT A GLANCE

- ❖ Steady cargo performance across air, sea, and land in 2025
- ❖ Air freight was the leading cargo segment
- ❖ Efficient clearance supported by digital systems
- ❖ Strong cargo volumes provide a base for growth in the new year
- ❖ Continued focus on automation and digital customs



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DHL partners with major Gulf firms to transform logistics

DHL is reshaping supply chains in the region by working in KSA through ASMO, a JV with Saudi Aramco, and in Egypt through a partnership with YANMU Logistics. By building modern facilities, managing large-scale procurement, and introducing advanced systems, the firm is fortifying the region's ability to move goods efficiently.

CT Bureau

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ASMO — the JV between DHL and Saudi Aramco Development Company — has recently taken on 120 new procurement pacts for Aramco, covering general supply materials. This expansion followed a pilot earlier in 2025 and increased the number of suppliers for ASMO by 10 times. Thousands of new materials were added to ensure energy and industrial projects have



Sulaiman M Al Rubaian
Senior VP, Procurement & Supply Chain Management, Aramco

By 2030, ASMO plans to operate six logistics hubs in KSA, including three new purpose-built sites

the supplies they needed. DHL's ability is an important factor in this growth. By providing global logistics know-how, warehouse

management systems, and supply chain technology, DHL helps ASMO handle complex procurement processes, coordinate suppliers, and run large warehouses efficiently. "With DHL as a partner, ASMO is able to scale operations quickly, while keeping procurement and logistics cost-effective and reliable," said Sulaiman M Al Rubaian, Senior VP, Procurement & SCM, Aramco.

ASMO plans to expand further in the coming years;



more categories such as maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO), drilling materials, chemicals, and project materials will be added. DHL's technology and international network help make these expansions more connected, allowing businesses access supplies faster and more reliably.

The JV has started operations at the Central Pipe Yard (CPY) near Abqaiq, a five million sqm facility and one of the largest logistics hubs in the world for oil & gas pipes. DHL contributes its operational systems, warehouse management expertise, and delivery coordination to ensure smooth flow of materials. CPY is ASMO's third Aramco-owned site, after Riyadh and Jazan. By 2030, ASMO plans to operate six logistics hubs in KSA, including three new purpose-built sites. These hubs will have a combined capacity exceeding 8 million sqm, with annual procurement likely to surpass US\$ 8 billion.



Abdulaziz Busbute, CEO, DHL Express ME and North Africa along with Karim Hefzi, COO, YANMU Logistics, at the signing ceremony

DHL AND YANMU LOGISTICS

DHL's aspirations extend beyond KSA. In Egypt, the company has partnered with YANMU Logistics, a subsidiary of the Hassan Allam Group, to build a new service centre in East Cairo Logistics Park on Suez Road.

DHL is investing €24 million in the 13,000 sqm facility that will meet the highest global safety standards. Once operational, it will become DHL's largest service centre in Egypt.

The joint venture has started operations at the CPY near Abqaiq, a five million sqm facility

The East Cairo facility will allow DHL to handle more vehicles, speed up deliveries and pick-ups, and support plans to grow business by 27 per cent by 2035. DHL is upgrading its customs clearance operations at Cairo International Airport, integrating advanced systems and automation to improve shipment processing and overall efficiency.

"The new centre reflects DHL's commitment to expanding infrastructure and providing high-quality logistics services," said Abdulaziz Busbute, CEO, DHL Express Middle East and North Africa.

The project shows the capability to provide advanced logistics solutions that support business growth and Egypt's logistics sector," added Karim Hefzi, COO, YANMU Logistics.

Together, DHL's work — through ASMO in KSA and the East Cairo facility in Egypt — is setting new benchmarks

for supply chains in the Middle East. By combining advanced technology, global expertise, and local knowledge, DHL is making logistics faster, safer, and more reliable. These investments help businesses operate efficiently and strengthen the region's position as a logistics hub, linking local markets to the globe. 



DHL, ASMO

- 120 new procurement agreements, supplier base 10 times bigger
- Covers general supply, MRO, drilling, chemicals, and project materials
- Key facilities Riyadh, Jazan, Central Pipe Yard, near Abqaiq
- 2030 plan — Six logistics hubs with US\$ 8 billion annual procurement

DHL in Egypt

- DHL Express and YANMU Logistics Hassan Allam Group partnership
- €24 million investment in East Cairo Logistics Park
- 13,000 sqm facility built to TAPA A safety standards
- Handles faster delivery and pick-ups
- Growth Target — 27% business increase by 2035

2026

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

3-4 3rd Annual Supply Chain & Logistics Summit Middle East Dubai, UAE

4-5 Breakbulk Middle East Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE

4-5 MRO Middle East Dubai, UAE

10 Sustainable Aviation Futures MENA Congress Dubai, UAE

10 iFX EXPO Dubai Dubai, UAE

14-17 Air Cargo Conference 2026 Orlando, USA

15-17 World Advanced Manufacturing & Logistics Summit & Expo (WAM Saudi) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

MARCH

3 Aviation Logistics & Air Cargo Management Maseru, Lesotho

5-6 CargoIS Forum 2026 Miami, Florida, USA

10 International Conference on Multi-Modal Transport Dubai, UAE

10 Int'l Conference on Sustainable Supply Chain Management and Circular Practices Abu Dhabi, UAE

10-12 World Cargo Symposium 2026 Lima Convention Centre, Lima, Peru

11 Philippine Ports and Logistics 2026 Manila, Philippines

24-25 Aviation Festival Asia 2026 Suntec Centre, Singapore

For more information contact: talk@ddpl.com

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

Dubai Customs launches multilingual trade platform

Trade in the Gulf is growing rapidly, crossing borders and languages. E-commerce is booming, but language can be a barrier for many businesses and traders. To this end, Dubai Customs is taking steps to trade by launching a 3-language platform.



CT Bureau

Dubai Customs' Cross-Border e-commerce Platform is now accessible in English, French, and Spanish, making it easier for businessmen and firms around the world to use. The platform allows users to understand its features, workflows, and technology sans language barriers. This helps firms follow customs needs and move goods across borders smoothly.

The platform connects government authorities with shipping companies. It simplifies procedures, speeds up shipments, and makes cross-border e-commerce smoother. Tools, such as AI and big data analytics, help businesses track shipments, meet customs rules quickly, and reduce delays. This also encourages investment in digital trade and supports the growth of e-commerce in the region.

"At Dubai Customs, we aim to make cross-border trade seamless for everyone. Offering our e-commerce platform



Atiq Al Muhairi
Executive Director, Customs Development, Dubai Customs

technology can make cross-border commerce easier, support investment, and encourage collaboration between various countries.

The multilingual approach is part of Dubai's efforts to strengthen its role as an international trade and logistics centre. By making digital trade accessible to more users, Dubai Customs is helping shape the future of e-commerce in the UAE and the GCC.

in multiple languages ensures that businesses worldwide could benefit from its capabilities," said Atiq Al Muhairi, Executive Director, Customs Development, Dubai Customs.

By offering the multilingual platform, Dubai Customs is helping businesses across continents access its services and understand customs processes. The move also reinforces Dubai's position as a hub for trade and logistics innovation. Industry experts say the three language platform shows how



SolitAir Holding inducts fourth dry-lease aircraft

SolitAir Holding has inducted its fourth dry-lease aircraft, marking another step in the company's rapid fleet expansion. With this addition, SolitAir's total fleet now stands at seven aircraft, achieved within eight months of operations, Hamdi Osman, Founder and CEO, SolitAir Holding, said, "The milestone was marked during an on-site visit by SolitAir's Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation partner, Aero Inspection, which presented a plaque to recognise the induction of the aircraft. The move highlights the close working relationship between the two companies and their shared focus on safety, reliability, and operational standards."



Digital tools to build faster, more resilient supply chains



ASMO, the JV between Saudi Aramco Development Company and DHL, is exploring new financing solutions with JP Morgan to strengthen supply chain and logistics operations in KSA. The collaboration is aimed at improving access to capital and enhancing the efficiency of end-to-end supply chains. The pact focuses on developing tools that help ASMO's customers manage inventory and working capital effectively. Off-balance sheet financing solutions are being considered to free up cash tied in procurement and logistics operations, allowing companies to scale their operations without cash flow constraints.

DP World invests in Eastern Europe as a growing trade hub

DP World is investing in Eastern Europe to create smarter, greener, and more connected supply chains, positioning the region at the centre of new trade corridors. These investments aim to improve efficiency, resilience, and sustainability in global commerce. Kris Adams, Executive VP, Eastern Europe, DP World, highlighted that the region's evolving role is reshaping global supply chains. "Our investments in connectivity and logistics infra are designed to support trade flows and sustainable growth," he said. As manufacturers diversify production and multimodal transport links expand, Eastern Europe is becoming a key bridge between Europe, the Gulf, Asia, and Africa, said Hamdi Osman, Founder and CEO, SolitAir Holding. These developments are shaping how cargo moves across the continent. 

Amman expands Middle East network with new flight



Hong Kong Air Cargo announced the launch of new scheduled cargo services connecting Hong Kong with Amman, starting from January. The new route strengthens the airline's presence in the Middle East and supports trade between Asia and the region. By adding Amman to its network, Hong Kong Air Cargo is expanding its reach across the Middle East and improving cargo connectivity to Jordan and nearby markets. The service will provide faster and more reliable air freight options for businesses moving goods between Asia and the Middle East, including general cargo, e-commerce, and time-critical shipments.

Fast Logistics fortifies UAE–Nigeria trade

Fast Logistics offers fast and reliable air freight services from the UAE to Nigeria, helping businesses move cargo smoothly and on time. With connections from Dubai to Lagos and Kano, the company supports traders who need speed, safety, and clear tracking without operational stress. The service is designed for urgent, commercial, and high-value shipments. Starting from pickup in the UAE to final delivery in Nigeria, Fast Logistics manages the entire process. This includes documentation support and help with customs clearance, reducing delays and confusion for customers. Time-sensitive cargo receives priority handling to meet tight delivery schedules. Shipments are handled securely and follow com-



pliance standards, ensuring safety at each stage of the journey. By working with trusted airline partners, Fast Logistics offers reliable transit times and consistent service quality.



Magma Aviation launches fully customised CMS

Magma Aviation has completed its digital transformation with the rollout of a fully customised Cargo Management System (CMS) designed for cargo ops, said Barry Zigner, CEO, Forward Momentum. The system replaces tools such as spreadsheets with a single, real-time platform that connects commercial, finance, and operations teams, improving internal coordination and customer service. The CMS centralises all operational data, reducing duplicated work and errors, and ensures teams operate with clarity, accuracy, and speed. Paul Hoatson, Head, Network Planning & Alliances at Magma, said the system helps the company work as one team.



Canada boosts ME trade, expands cargo flights to KSA



Canada has expanded its air transport pacts with KSA and the UAE, giving airlines options for cargo services. Previously, carriers could operate just a few cargo flights each week — three to the Kingdom and four to the UAE. Under the new acts, airlines can now operate unlimited all-cargo flights to both countries. Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Canada, said, "These expanded pacts are a win-win for Canadian businesses. By opening the door to more flights, more competition, and more connections, we are fortifying our ties with key partners."

Euroairlines strengthens cargo ecosystem through partnerships

Euroairlines has taken a step in its digitalisation journey with the rollout of the Nexlog cargo booking platform and integration with leading digital aggregators, including CargoAi, cargo.one, and WebCargo. The airline signed a partnership with global GSA GOPEX to boost interline development and expand its global network. The Nexlog system centralises cargo ops, accelerates agreement management, and improves process traceability. The partnership with GOPEX, led by Javier González, aims to optimise interline cargo and passenger ops, while attracting new clients and strengthening Euroairlines' global presence. "With these initiatives, we enhance operational efficiency and digitalise every process, providing agile, connected, and competitive services to clients worldwide," said Antonio López-Lázaro, CEO.

dnata enters Italian cargo market with new facility



dnata is moving deeper into Italy's cargo market with a major investment at Milan's Malpensa Airport. The firm will build a new €25 million cargo facility through its local arm, Airport Handling, marking one of its biggest steps in the country so far, said Clive Sauvé-Hopkins, CEO, dnata Airport Operations. "Europe remains a cornerstone of our expansion strategy, and this project allows us to build future-ready capacity in a high-potential market. We will continue to invest in advanced infra and tech to deliver best-in-class services across our operations," he added. The project follows a bid run by the SEA Group, which operates Milan's airports.

ECS Group achieves record Beaujolais Nouveau shipment

ECS Group set a record with its Beaujolais Nouveau shipment. Its subsidiary, Aero Cargo International France, handled 40 per cent of all French Beaujolais Nouveau exports on DHL-operated flights, the highest market share ever for this seasonal campaign. "This record shows what happens when operational excellence meets strong partnership," said Jean Ceccaldi, CEO, ECS Group. Planning, real-time coordination, and precise execution showed the strength of the long-standing partnership between Aero Cargo International France and DHL Aviation. Speed, reliability, and performance are essential during the cargo industry's busiest periods. Guillaume Tourneret, MD, Aero Cargo International France,



added, "Precision, anticipation, and teamwork were key. Our work with DHL Aviation allowed us to achieve an operation and a record result we are very proud of."



New China Postal routes link Guangzhou, Liege, Chongqing

China Postal Airlines has launched a service between Guangzhou and Liege using a Boeing 777F, fortifying China–Europe linkage and supporting demand for high-capacity, reliable freight ops. The new route reinforces Liege Airport's role as a European cargo hub and underlines the commitment to efficient global transport solutions. The airline operated its Chongqing–Yangon flight on 9 December 2025. This route, China Postal Airlines' 35th global service, is likely to boost trade and economic cooperation between China and Myanmar under the Belt and Road Initiative, while backing the development of Chongqing as a global air logistics hub.



JAL increases codeshare cargo flights with Kalitta Air



Japan Airlines will expand its codeshare cargo flights with Kalitta Air between Tokyo Narita and Chicago O'Hare, hiking weekly flights from three to five. Japan Airlines first partnered with Kalitta Air for Tokyo Narita and Chicago O'Hare cargo flights in May 2025, incorporating freighters to fortify capacity and ensure reliable service. The new schedule will operate using a 777-300ERSF, with Tokyo Narita–Chicago O'Hare flights on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, and Chicago O'Hare–Tokyo Narita flights on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The partnership builds on the resumption of Japan Airlines' freighter ops in February 2024.

B&H Worldwide fortifies global aerospace logistics for Ontic

B&H Worldwide, a top aerospace logistics firm, has won a global warehousing and logistics contract with Ontic Aerospace. This deal strengthens the long-term partnership between the two firms and helps Ontic support its growing global operations. Under the pact, B&H will manage 3,000 aerospace parts across its hubs in the USA, the UK, and Singapore. Services include packaging, consignment checks, document verification, and handling of dangerous goods. The company will also handle urgent Aircraft-on-Ground (AOG) shipments. Ontic can track all its inventory in real time using B&H's FirstTRAC system. Gary Wilson, Group Managing Director, B&H Worldwide, said the contract reflects Ontic's trust in the company to provide fast, reliable, and safe logistics worldwide. ☀

SATS, Air China Cargo to boost global networks

Singapore-based ground handler SATS and Air China Cargo have strengthened their partnership across markets in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. The move focuses on joint growth in cargo handling, integrated logistics, and development of intelligent terminal services. The decision follows a meeting in China led by Kerry Mok, SATS President and CEO, and Chen Song, Chairman, Air Cargo China. During the discussions, the parties aligned on key priorities, including improving cargo transport, enhancing terminal services, and leveraging digital tools, and artificial intelligence to boost efficiency and visibility. Air China Cargo aims to deliver international logistics solutions, while supporting China's "transportation power" and "logistics power" strategies.



Menzies Aviation expands freighter services to Brussels

Menzies Aviation has expanded its air cargo network by securing a seven-year freighter handling license at Brussels Airport in Belgium. This move adds Belgium to Menzies' growing portfolio of 350 airports across 65 nations, underlining its focus on expanding freighter handling and airside services at key hubs, said Miguel Gomez Sjunnesson, Executive VP, Europe. "Our teams are focused on safe, efficient, and high-quality service as we grow at Brussels, supporting airlines and raising standards at this important cargo hub," he added. Brussels Airport is a European gateway for freighter services, handling significant volumes of pharma, perishables, and high-value goods. With the new license, Menzies



Aviation aims to smoothing ground handling, improve aircraft turnaround, and deliver safe, reliable, and consistent service for airlines operating dedicated freighter flights.



Movements



MAKHAZEN

Kuwait

Khaled Faisal Al-Ghais has been named Vice Chairman of the Board at Makhazen. With more than 25 years of experience in investment banking, corporate governance, and institutional leadership, Al-Ghais has held senior roles at Dresdner Kleinwort, Investcorp, Kuwait Investment Authority, and the Gulf Investment Corporation.



MAKHAZEN

Kuwait

Ahmad Al-Banna has been appointed CEO at Makhazen, marking a significant step in the company's planned leadership transition. In his recent role as Senior VP at Agility Logistics Parks, Kuwait, he transformed the company's logistics and industrial real estate portfolio into an internationally benchmarked operating platform.



CHAMP CARGOSYSTEMS

Luxembourg

Manuel Galindo has been appointed CEO at CHAMP Cargo-systems. He will lead CHAMP's priorities, including fortifying the CHAMP neo Platform, enhancing interoperability between airlines and partners, and supporting customers as cargo moves toward standardised, data-driven, and digitally connected operations worldwide.



VANGUARD LOGISTICS

North America

Vincent Argenzio has been appointed Global Chief Commercial Officer at Vanguard Logistics North America. As the GCCO, he will focus on enhancing global coordination, driving commercial growth, and improving service quality to support Vanguard's position as a leading provider of LCL shipping solutions worldwide.



DHL EXPRESS

Taiwan

Samuel Lee has been appointed Managing Director at DHL Express Taiwan, responsible for strengthening the company's operations and market presence in this trade hub. In his new position, Lee will focus on supporting technology, e-commerce sectors, and driving growth to enhance Taiwan's role in international supply chains.



DHL EXPRESS

Asia-Pacific

Chee Choong Ng has been appointed Senior VP, Human Resources, at DHL Express Asia-Pacific. In his new role, Ng will focus on developing talent, fostering innovation, and creating a workplace where employees thrive, aligning DHL's HR strategy with business goals across one of the region's most dynamic markets.



BOEING

Dubai

Fahad Al Mheiri has been appointed VP for the Middle East, Gulf, and North Africa, at Boeing, based in Dubai. He will lead Boeing's initiatives across the region, backing strategies to grow the aerospace sector and strengthen collaboration with stakeholders to advance local infrastructure, research, and innovation.



ROYAL AIR MAROC

CARGO

Casablanca

Rita Chraibi has joined Cargo at Royal Air Maroc as Vice President. In her new role, she will oversee the division's commercial development strategy through 2037, focusing on expanding the network with new cargo routes, and advancing the carrier's position as a leading cargo operator in the region.



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