

Middle East's leading cargo monthly

# CARGO talk

Let's Moving



**WOMEN LEADERS**  
**New Captains, New Horizons**



## SKYLINK CARGO SERVICES

is pleased to announce its appointment as cargo GSA for



Operating Daily Wide Body Aircraft from Dubai to Kabul

Flight No.	From	To	Dep.	Arr.	Days	Aircraft
RQ902	DXB	KBL	0300	0615	Daily	A340

Acceptable Dimensions: 315\*215\*157cms/1900 kgs per piece

Cargo handover accepted in DXB or DWC

**Contact us for rates, space and booking confirmations**

[sales@skylinkcargoservices.com](mailto:sales@skylinkcargoservices.com)



1516 BURLINGTON TOWER,  
BUSINESS BAY, DUBAI



PH. +9714 2989880  
MOBILE : +971 50 9189182



## More women take the helm in logistics across the Gulf



**10**  
Nearshoring, resilience reshape air cargo growth



**16**  
Africa emerges as reliable, booming trade route



**20**  
Liège becomes latest hub for Emirates SkyCargo



**21**  
Why middle-mile matters for perishable cargo



**30**  
Riyadh Cargo forays into air cargo sector in the Middle East



**32**  
Oman launches heavy-lift drones for remote logistics



**PUBLISHER**

SanJeet: [sanjeet@sanjeet.ae](mailto:sanjeet@sanjeet.ae)

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

Devika Jeet: [devika@ddppl.com](mailto:devika@ddppl.com)

Nisha Verma: [nisha.verma@ddppl.com](mailto:nisha.verma@ddppl.com)

Eva Young: [eva.young@ddppl.com](mailto:eva.young@ddppl.com)

Dr. Shehara Fernando: [shehara@ddppl.com](mailto:shehara@ddppl.com)

Ritika Arora Bholal: [ritika.arora@ddppl.com](mailto:ritika.arora@ddppl.com)

**DESK EDITOR**

VVN Murthi: [vvv.murthi@ddppl.com](mailto:vvv.murthi@ddppl.com)

**ADVERTISING TEAM**

Crisna De Guzman: [crisna@ddppl.com](mailto:crisna@ddppl.com)

Sonia Butalia: [sonia.butalia@ddppl.com](mailto:sonia.butalia@ddppl.com)

Rajith Fernando: [rajith@ddppl.com](mailto:rajith@ddppl.com)

Mobile: +971529208684

Angelito Villeza: [angelito@ddppl.com](mailto:angelito@ddppl.com)

**MARKETING SERVICES**

Jaspreet Kaur: [jaspreet.kaur@ddppl.com](mailto:jaspreet.kaur@ddppl.com)

**DESIGN**

Subhash Chaudhary

**GM (PRODUCTION)**

Anil Kharbanda

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Ramesh Gupta

**ADVERTISEMENT DESIGNER**

Nitin Kumar, Aditya Pratap Singh,

Anil Khatri Chhetri

UAE: Z1-02, P.O. Box 9348, Saif Zone, Sharjah, UAE, Ph: +971 6 5528954, Fax: +971 6 5528956 E-mail: [talk@ddppl.com](mailto:talk@ddppl.com)



ARABIAN TRAVEL AWARDS

HotelTALK

TRAVELTALK

TRAVELTALK

TRAVELTALK

TRAVELTALK

TRAVELTALK

ARABIAN CARGO AWARDS

MICEtalk

TRAVELTALK

TRAVELTALK

TRAVELTALK

TRAVELTALK

TRAVELTALK

**CARGOTALK MIDDLE EAST** is a publication of Durga Das Publications (Middle East) FZC. All information in **CARGOTALK MIDDLE EAST** is derived from sources, which we consider reliable and a sincere effort is made to report accurate information. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. The publisher regrets that he cannot accept liability for errors and omissions contained in this publication, however caused. Similarly, opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract and/or in interviews are not necessarily shared by **CARGOTALK MIDDLE EAST**. We wish to advise our readers that one or more recognised authorities may hold different views than those reported. Material used in this publication is intended for information purpose only. Readers are advised to seek specific advice before acting on information contained in this publication which is provided for general use, and may not be appropriate for the readers' particular circumstances. Contents of this publication are copyright. No part of or any part of the contents thereof may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the permission of the publication in writing. The same rule applies when there is a copyright or the article is taken from another publication. An exemption is hereby granted for the extracts used for the purpose of fair review, provided two copies of the same publication are sent to us for our records. Publications reproducing material either in part or in whole, without permission could face legal action. The publisher assumes no responsibility for returning any material solicited or unsolicited nor is he responsible for material lost or damaged. This publication is not meant to be an endorsement of any specific product or services offered. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw, amend or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the UAE and International Advertisements Code. The publisher will not be liable for any damage or loss caused by delayed publication, error or failure of an advertisement to appear.



# A TOAST TO WOMAN POWER

The UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are witnessing a surge in female participation in the workforce, driven by Vision 2030, and increased investments in AI and advanced technology. With International Women's Day around the corner, women industry leaders highlight how this influx of talent is addressing workforce shortages and transforming sectors previously dominated by men.

 Dr Shehara Rizly Fernando

**W**ith global and Gulf trade volumes rising and regional air cargo, logistics, and e-commerce accelerating supply chains, demand for manpower has outpaced availability across air, land, and ocean cargo operations. From the moment goods arrive at the warehouse, freight platforms must keep up with rising demand to ensure timely delivery to their destinations.

The opening of the KSA market has had an impact — attracting more women into the air cargo, logistics, and supply chain industries. In the UAE and KSA, support, especially in family-owned businesses, goes a long way when it comes to selecting career choices.

In the Gulf, development in various fields is imperative for women to advance to senior roles in the workforce. Today as the industry evolves with automation, AI-driven tools, and smarter infra, these positions are no longer physically restrictive but knowledge and tech-driven — women excel in these areas.

Structured training programmes, mentorship, and clear career pathways enable them to transition into supply chain planning, cargo ops, compliance, digital transformation, and senior management. **CARGOTALK** examines how targeted skill development, flexible work models, and inclusive practices bridge the manpower gap and reshape logistics into a more sustainable, innovative and future-ready industry.



## 2025: A glorious year for women in air cargo

Last year was a momentous one for women in the logistics and air cargo industry in the Middle East. My election as the Senior Vice President — the first woman in this position in as many as 100 years — indicates the growing recognition



**Nadia Abdul Aziz**  
President  
NAFL

“Through training in collaboration with the universities and global partners, NAFL empowers talent, especially in women.”

of inclusive leadership in the air cargo and logistics industry. Through training programmes in collaboration with leading universities and international partners, the association continues to empower talent, especially in women, supported by the UAE’s visionary leadership.

## Women’s capability never a barrier in the sector

It has been seen that women in the Middle East are shaping the future of logistics, and their impact shows that their capabilities are never a barrier. What is often missing are the training programmes, international exposure, and structured pathways that help them jump into larger roles. Digitalisation can be a game changer in the air cargo and logistics industry, which is being driven by advanced technology, such as AI. What is more, those women who can interpret data without taking more time always stand out.



**Mary Oxley**  
VP, Marketing & Sales  
DHL Global Forwarding  
ME & Africa

“Digitalisation can be a game changer in an industry becoming more tech-driven; those who can interpret data immediately stand out.”

## Training, exposure help build workforce

Structured skill development programmes are essential to build a sustainable logistics workforce, while inviting female participation. By combining technology training with real-world exposure, women get digital and analytical skills across cargo and supply chains. At Etihad Cargo, men-



**Alexandra Milkova**  
Associate CIPD and HR  
Business Partner  
Etihad Cargo

“By combining tech training with real-world exposure, women get digital and analytical skills across cargo and supply chains.”

torship and cross-functional exposure enable women to build careers and progress into decision-making positions. We view skill development as central to attracting women in logistics, particularly as the industry becomes increasingly technology-driven and customer-centric.

## Training plays crucial role in cargo, logistics

Leading universities and exclusive training institutes play a significant role in foundational skills for women and open the doors into logistics and aviation industry. Extending support to collaboration between the academia and the industry is essential to focus on skills, valued by em-



**Liz Morgan**  
Chief HR Officer  
SolitAir Holding

“Supporting partnerships between education and industry is necessary for focusing on skills valued by employers.”

ployers. Companies provide importance to skills, such as communication, teamwork, real-world exposure, and flexibility. The best talent, especially in women in the Gulf region, needs to be attracted as a company's business expands.

## Learning tech, finance, ops transforms women

Mastering the ‘Golden Triangle’ — technology, finance, and operations — transforms a professional into a creator. The cross-functional fluency gives women an international perspective, enabling them to circumnavigate complex international trade-offs. By bridging the widening gap between digital innovation ambition (strategy) and implementation (execution) women become capable of directing the air cargo and logistics industry from the warehouse floor to the C-suite.



**Jessica Panigari**  
Founder & CEO  
Goods2Load

“Cross-functional fluency gives women a macro perspective, enabling them to navigate complex global trade-offs.”

## Mentorship, training focus on career gaps

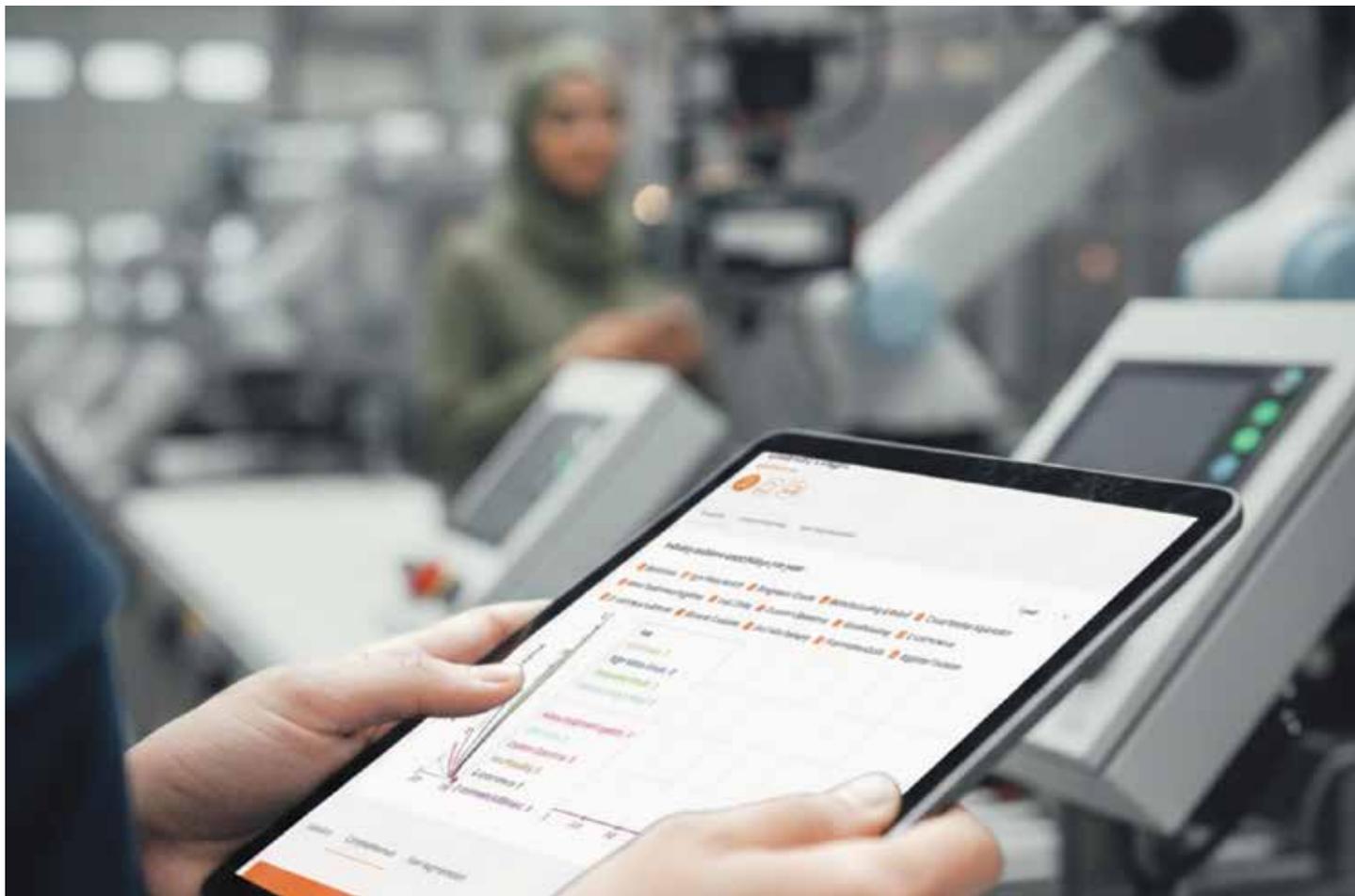
Training and mentorship accelerate women's progression and retention by focusing on capability, confidence, and career visibility gaps in logistics. Leadership development builds decision-making, stakeholder management, communication, and executive



**Evelyn Alwino**  
Cargo GM, Eastern Hemisphere  
Kenya Airways

“Structured leadership development builds decision-making, stakeholder management, and communication.”

presence, enabling transition into vital roles. Digital learning via LinkedIn Learning and accredited partnerships strengthen engagement. Kenya Airways' EmpowHer network offers mentorship on executive presence, personal branding, and work-life integration.



## Opportunities open up as air cargo, logistics expand

Development of skillsets in women is becoming a way to alleviate the manpower crunch, which the logistics industry is presently facing. When training sessions are designed for the cargo industry, institutes open the door to a new, reliable talent pool that has more of-



**Jo Ann Ignacio**  
Commercial Manager  
KS Global Logistics

“When training is designed for logistics, they open the door to a new, reliable talent pool that has often been overlooked.”

ten than not been overlooked. As the logistics and air cargo industry expands, women build long-term careers, while helping the industry meet its increasing workforce requirements.

## Women empowered by developing skillsets

Having someone believe in you, guide you, and open doors makes progression possible. This is the approach that the air cargo and logistics companies should stick firmly to in order to support and retain women industry leaders. The logistics industry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is motivating trained and skilled talent of women in tune with growth of e-commerce and cold chain operations. At present, empowering women to take on leadership positions through skill development is the need of the hour.



**Maha AlMadi**  
Regional Sales and Special  
Projects Manager, AJEX

“Logistics industry in the KSA is growing in e-commerce and cold chain ops are driving demand for skilled talent.”

## Mentorship focuses on workforce challenges

Representation and mentorship are powerful instruments to addressing increasing the workforce challenges in the logistics and air cargo industry. A great mentor taking genuine interest in the mentees, provides important perspec-



**Liana Coyne**  
Director  
Coyne Airways

“Developing confidence and versatility between the mentor and mentee can be very rewarding for them.”

tives, identifies potential risks or dangers, and updates the mentees in the application of resources, which are mandatory for development. Developing/motivating this self-confidence and versatility between the particular mentor and mentee can be very rewarding.





## Women are multi-taskers, also master details of ops

Women frequently bring strengths that are valued in the air cargo and logistics industry — attention to detail, multitasking, communication, and relationship management. When women in the Middle East region invest time and funds in mastering operational details, they do not just compete in logistics sector, but women also build sustainable long-term careers and are positioned to take the lead and make an impact across the logistics and air cargo industry and beyond.



**Noha Chalhoub**  
Admin and HR Director  
Compass Logistics  
International

“Women bring strengths like attention to detail, multitasking, communication, and relationship management.”

## Skills and opportunity must go hand in hand

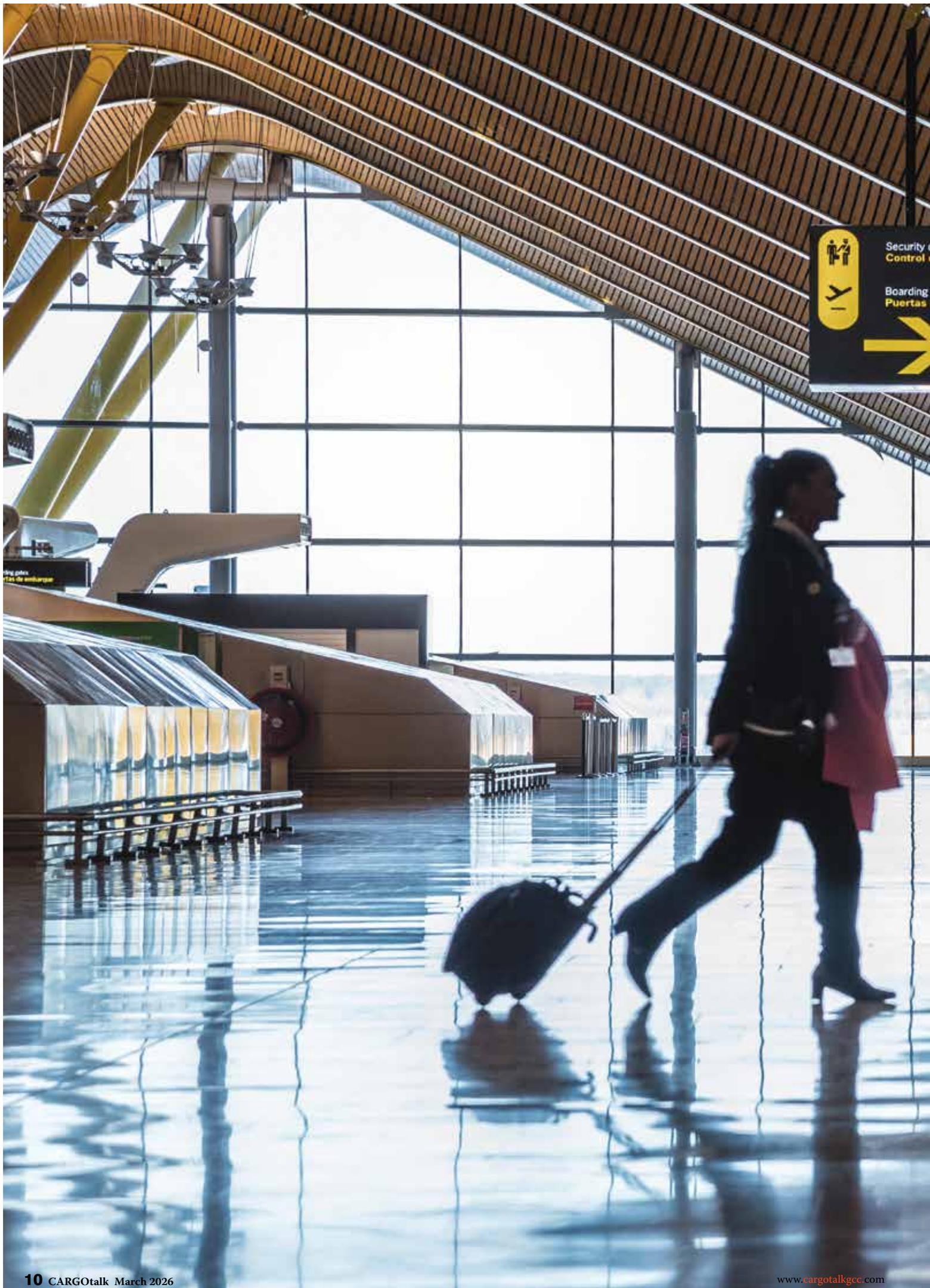
Skill development for anyone entering logistics sector is essential, regardless of gender. Focus must not be on training women, but on building frameworks to develop skilled professionals. When access to learning, cross-functional



**Sonam Smith**  
Head, Marketing  
ACI Logistics

“When access to learning, exposure, and decision-making is consistent, progression naturally follows.”

exposure, and decision-making is consistent, progression naturally follows. By investing in capability-building and end-to-end business, several companies strengthen talent base. At our logistics company, women make up as much as 50 per cent of the workforce. 🚀





# Nearshoring, resilience reshape air cargo growth

The air cargo sector is experiencing a boom, driven by investments and a push for economic diversification. The region has strengthened its position as a significant international link through advanced airport facilities, multimodal hubs, and free zones. PPPs, central to future-proofing supply chains and diversifying trade away from oil, are enabling the scaling of infrastructure to handle e-commerce, pharmaceuticals, and perishables.

 Dr Shehara Rizly Fernando

The past decade has transformed the logistics landscape in the Middle East through long-term infrastructure planning aligning with the national economic vision, UAE 2031. The Kingdoms of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, the UAE, and Qatar have been at the forefront of expanding the sector by investing in new cargo terminals, cold chain, and pharmaceuticals with integrated airside and landside operations, reducing wait times, and improving efficiency.

Other developments contributing for smoother and efficient cargo operations are new rail networks, new logistics or commerce zones, and the seaports. In today's world, digitalisation is a key focus

that conserves time, while reducing the carbon footprint. Artificial intelligence has become an asset in the industry of late as it prevents avoidable paperwork, provides transparency, and speeds up across the global supply chains.

Sustainability plays a vital role with more investments in ensuring seamless services with the use of modern technology. As geopolitical shifts, nearshoring, and supply chain resilience reshape global trade flows, the Gulf's integrated infrastructure is proving to be a critical asset.

It not only supports rising air cargo volumes but also positions the Gulf region as a reliable, agile, and future-ready hub for international air cargo and logistics.

## Longer dwell times need to be reduced

One of the major challenges affecting Middle East air cargo growth is the speed of warehouse processing, which falls behind in comparison with other regions. This is caused by a misalignment between customs, government agencies, and warehouses, among others, which frequently results in longer dwell times and reduced delivery efficiency. For a direct and active approach to this problem, it is essential to modernise existing infrastructure, prioritise shipments, and leverage advanced technology.



**Michael Duggan**  
Head, Cargo  
Oman Air

“A major challenge affecting air cargo growth is the speed of warehouse processing, which is falling behind other regions.”

## Need more air cargo terminals, digital systems

The Middle East region is presently riding an incredible growth wave — air cargo volumes are breaking records. Across the Gulf region, there is a desperate and urgent need for more advanced cargo terminals, enhanced digital systems for customs, specialised ground



**Manish Seth**  
Chief Executive Officer  
RAK Int'l Airport

“Across the region, there is a need for modern cargo terminals, enhanced digital systems for customs and tracking.”

handling, and tracking and expanding the cold chain. We are overseeing the air cargo volumes well, but planning is on for a future-ready cargo terminal, which is the order of the day in order to keep pace with local and international markets.



## Growth constrained by limited landside capacity

Air cargo growth in the Middle East is constrained by limited landside capacity, congestion around major cargo hubs, and inadequate warehousing to support temperature-controlled and e-commerce volumes. Expanded air cargo terminals, freighter parking



**Fitsum Abadi**  
MD, Cargo  
Kenya Airways

“Expanded terminals, freighter parking stands, and scalable warehouse capacity vital as demand has outpaced existing infrastructure.”

stands, and scalable warehouse capacity are significant as the cargo demand has overtaken the existing infrastructure. Strengthening the infrastructure is essential to hold on to the region's position as a global logistics powerhouse.





## Growth limited by slot congestion at hubs

Cargo growth is limited due to slot congestion at major air cargo hubs, limited freighter parking, shortage of cargo terminals, and warehouse space. Fujairah International Airport is developing a precinct to collect, process, and redistribute cargo, supported by connection to Fujairah Seaport and Etihad Rail.



**Mark Govender**  
Business Development  
Manager  
Fujairah Int'l Airport

A The significant difference is where the airport assumes responsibility and streamlines operational touchpoints, simplifying the entire value chain, thereby reducing dwell times of air cargo and cutting operational costs.

“A vital differentiator is where the airport assumes the responsibility and streamlines operational touchpoints.”

## Inadequate infra to manage cargo volumes

There are many infrastructure gaps — major international hubs depend on legacy cargo handling facilities that were not designed for today's volumes. There is a shortage of freighter parking stands close to the cargo terminals, reducing connectivity and delaying ground



**Naresh Ranganathan**  
Vice President, Cargo  
Velora

“Landing and parking slots are prioritised for pax aircraft, forcing freighters into off-peak “trough” periods for connectivity.”

operations. At many airports in the UAE and the GCC, landing and parking slots have been prioritised for passenger aircraft, thereby forcing cargo freighters into off-peak “trough” periods, which is best for connectivity. 🚛



# Kenya carrier eyes Gulf region for growth and connectivity

In Africa, Kenya Airways Cargo is reinforcing the Middle East’s role as a key link between Africa, Asia, and Europe. **Fitsum Abadi, Director, Cargo, Kenya Airways**, says the carrier plans to increase freighter capacity, reflecting its focus on using Middle East trade corridors to strengthen connectivity, expand capacity, and drive growth.

CT Bureau

As Kenya Airways Cargo looks ahead to the year, it has set a clear agenda centred on accelerated growth, expanded capacity, and strengthened operational excellence. The airline’s priority is to cement Nairobi’s position as Africa’s leading cargo hub by increasing market share, enhancing reliability, and strengthening leadership in high-value segments.



**Fitsum Abadi**  
Managing Director, Cargo  
Kenya Airways

supporting growth. In 2026, the cargo division is deepening collaboration with regional and global carriers, logistics partners, and freight forwarders, particularly across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa — to diversify revenue streams and unlock new commercial opportunities.

Aligned with its digital transformation roadmap, KQ Cargo is rolling out enhanced technology

*The carrier will solidify Nairobi’s position as Africa’s leading cargo hub by increasing market share*

solutions, including warehouse automation tools, upgraded cargo management systems, and real-time tracking capabilities to improve visibility, speed, and overall customer experience.

While challenges such as capacity constraints, geopolitical uncertainty, and intensified competition remain, Abadi noted that scenario-based planning, infrastructure investment, disciplined cost management, and customer-centric innovation position the airline well to navigate market dynamics and deliver sustainable growth in 2026.



## EXPANSION PLANS

KQ Cargo plans to introduce more freighter capacity, scaling up from the current approximately 70 tonnes per day to more than 250 tonnes daily across key Africa–Middle East–Asia–Europe corridors. This will be supported by increased frequencies, targeted route enhancements, and continued expansion of the interline network to improve global connectivity.

Operational efficiency is the core pillar of the 2026 roadmap. According to

Abadi, comprehensive process improvements are being implemented across the cargo value chain to drive better yield management, stronger asset utilisation, and tighter cost discipline.

An organisational restructuring that sets up clearer decision-making channels and aligns with commercial and operational functions is also aimed at ensuring seamless service delivery and faster responses to market needs. Partnerships are expected to play a pivotal role in

### Growth

- Nairobi is being strengthened as Africa’s leading cargo hub
- Freighter capacity is to increase from 70 to over 250 tonnes per day
- Route frequencies are being expanded across key corridors
- Focus on perishables, pharma, e-commerce, and express logistics

### Ops and tech

- Operations are streamlined for better yield and asset use
- Partnerships expand across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa
- Technology upgrades include warehouse automation
- Real-time tracking boosts visibility and customer experience

## OUR BRANDS

ARMANI

BURBERRY

COACH

GUCCI

PRADA

RALPH LAUREN



UP TO  
**70%**  
OFF, ALL  
YEAR ROUND

# Hello to a World of style

SHOP LIKE ROYALTY, WITH OFFERS THAT KEEP YOU SMILING AT MCARTHURGLEN DESIGNER OUTLETS

## All the Luxury, all the Joy

Luxury services available at selected outlets, from VIP and Tourism lounges to Hands-free shopping. Elevate your day with a luxury private transfer available at all centres.



## Exclusive brands and services all in one place

Reach our designer outlets through booking your shuttle bus or private transfer direct through our McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Shuttle Hub online booking platform. Get to your destination quicker and with ease.

## Hello to a world of flavour

Come together for luxury shopping moments, unbeatable deals and delicious dining, ready to be served across Europe's favourite designer outlets. Visit us to enjoy flavours that the whole family will enjoy.



SCAN HERE TO REDEEM YOUR 10% DISCOUNT TODAY

23 Locations across 8 countries. Contact [GCC.Sales@mcarthurglen.com](mailto:GCC.Sales@mcarthurglen.com) to find out more

McArthur  
Glen  
Designer Outlets

# Africa emerges as reliable, booming trade route

For shippers looking for speed, reliability, and transparency, the UAE continues to be the preferred gateway for global trade. Of late, Africa is emerging as a booming trade route and making air cargo to the UAE a faster, more reliable option than road or sea routes, says **Kannan Nachiappan, CEO, GSA Global.**

 CT Bureau

The UAE continues to strengthen its position as a major logistics and cargo hub, with robust growth across key trade routes, particularly to Africa, Europe, and the United States.

This growth is driven by e-commerce and a rising demand for reliable, time-sensitive shipments. Kannan Nachiappan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), GSA Global,



**Kannan Nachiappan**  
CEO  
GSA Global

said that the first quarter of this year has seen a notable increase in business activity.

## AFRICA SPEEDS UP

Africa is emerging as a particularly booming trade route. Many African countries are landlocked, making air transport via the UAE a faster and more reliable choice than traditional road or sea routes.

Major carriers, including Emirates SkyCargo, Etihad Cargo, Air Arabia, flyDubai,

---

*Retailers and businesses hike imports ahead of Ramadan to meet heightened demand*

---

and Qatar Airways Cargo are increasing flight frequency and capacity to the region. "This has positioned the UAE



as a trusted gateway, reducing transit times, lowering shipping costs, and providing more transparent shipment tracking,” he added, highlighting the improvements over the past experiences when shipments more often than not faced delays or losses.

Beyond Africa, Europe and the USA are significant markets, though geopolitical tensions may impact trade flows, particularly to the USA.

Still, the UAE’s strong governance and business-friendly customs procedures ensure stability and confidence among global shippers. The combination of advanced digital systems and skilled human oversight has been crucial in maintaining the country’s competitive edge.

### EFFICIENCY

Speaking about multimodal transportation, Nachiappan said that it has significantly enhanced efficiency. By integrating air, sea, and road

## *Beyond Africa, Europe and the US are vital markets, though geopolitical tensions may impact trade flows*

transport, shipments move faster than sea freight, while still being more cost-effective than air freight.

This approach is particularly critical during peak seasons such as Ramadan, when demand for consumer goods, food items, and seasonal products to African and GCC countries surges.

Retailers and businesses often increase imports ahead of the holy month to meet heightened consumer demand, while time-sensitive shipments require precise coordination to ensure fast, timely delivery.

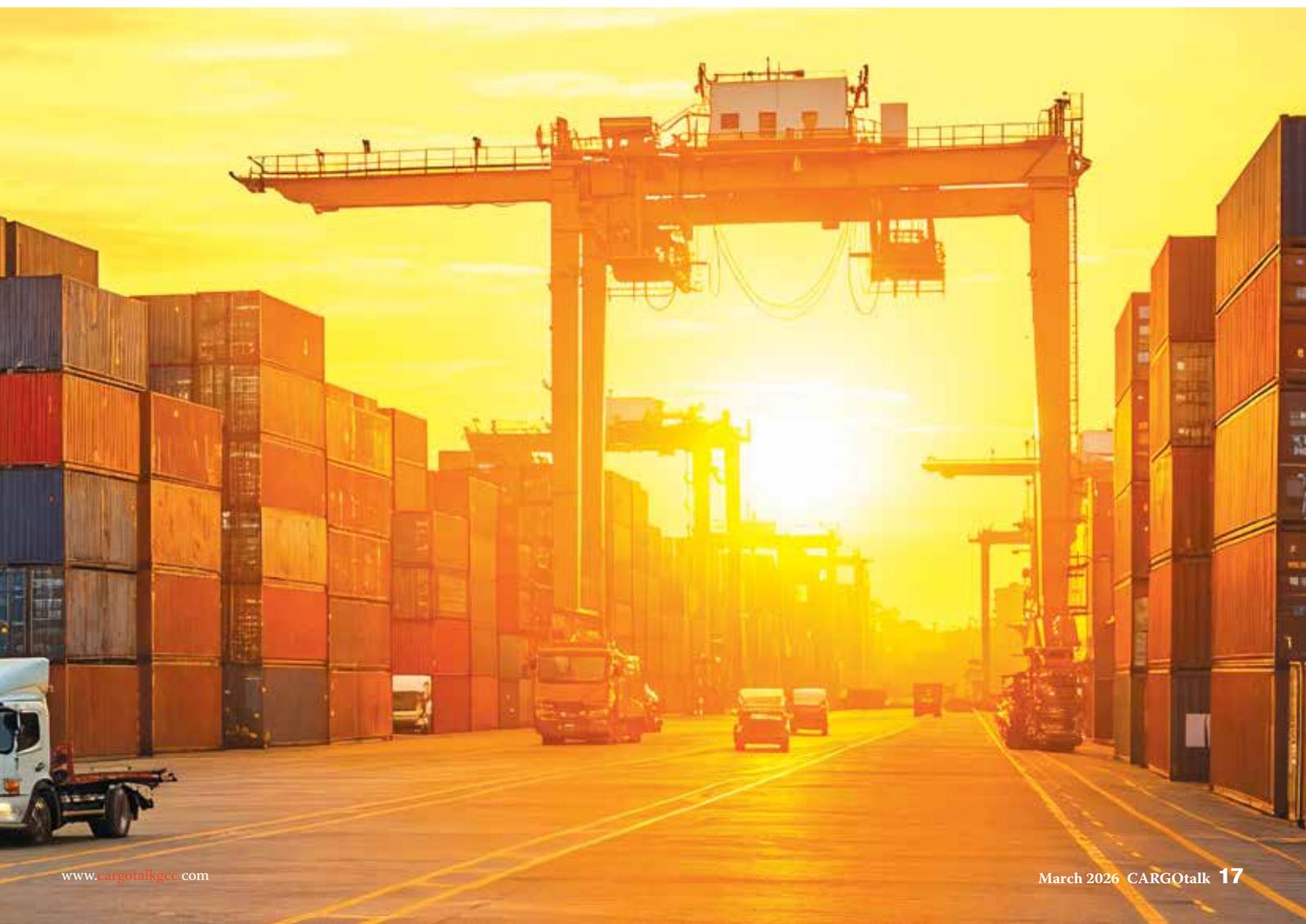
Multimodal transport allows logistics operators to manage these spikes efficiently, reduce delays, and optimise costs, ensuring that goods reach markets on time, despite the seasonal surge. With strong government support, expanding carrier networks, and a focus on quality service, the UAE continues to be a leading global hub, trusted by markets across Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

As Nachiappan points out, for shippers seeking efficiency, reliability, and transparency, the UAE remains the preferred gateway for international trade.

GSA Global connects airlines with cargo clients across the Gulf region and beyond. Representing 11 major carriers, the company delivers precise, innovative air freight solutions, ensuring seamless operations, optimised routes, and reliable service — establishing it as a cornerstone of the global air cargo industry. 🚚

## ME HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Strong cargo growth in Q1 led by e-commerce
- ❖ Africa emerges as a high-growth trade lane
- ❖ Increased capacity by major regional and global carriers
- ❖ UAE strengthens role as a reliable transit gateway
- ❖ Faster transit, lower costs, and improved shipment visibility
- ❖ Europe and USA remain key, stable markets
- ❖ Multimodal transport boosts speed and cost efficiency
- ❖ Ramadan drives peak demand across Africa and GCC



# New warehouse in Dubai to meet e-commerce flows

Over the years, CEVA Logistics has cemented its position in the Gulf region, running its businesses in the Kingdoms of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, Qatar, and the wider GCC region. Further expanding its operations, mere weeks after the launch the company is already handling more than 30,000 units daily, reflecting huge customer demand.

**CT Bureau**

Due to a huge demand for faster deliveries and a growth of online shopping in the region, CEVA Logistics has opened a new warehouse in Dubai South Free Zone to strengthen its support for fast-growing e-commerce and retail customers across the UAE and the wider GCC.

**STRATEGIC LOCATION**

Situated in Dubai South, the warehouse is housed in an



**Antonio Munoz**  
VP, Contract Logistics, IMEA  
CEVA Logistics

*The launch comes at a time when the online retail market in the Gulf region is booming*

area that has become an important logistics hub due to its proximity to Al Maktoum International Airport and major trade routes. CEVA Logistics stated that the new site would help customers manage higher

order volumes, shorten delivery times, and scale operations as online shopping continues to grow in the region.

In addition to its strategic location, the warehouse integrates advanced warehouse management systems (WMS) that allow real-time inventory tracking and order processing. Automated sorting and picking technologies have been deployed to streamline operations, reduce human error, and speed up deliveries. CEVA has also partnered with local and regional



courier networks to ensure last-mile efficiency, which is critical for meeting tight delivery windows demanded by e-commerce customers. The facility is designed to be highly adaptable, enabling it to handle seasonal peaks, flash sales, and sudden surges in demand without compromising service quality. By leveraging data analytics, CEVA can forecast demand patterns, optimize stock levels, and provide customers with actionable insights to improve their supply chain performance. These features position the Dubai South warehouse as a central hub for businesses aiming to expand across the UAE and the wider GCC.

Designed for e-commerce clients, the multi-user warehouse covers 23,000 sqm with 20-metre-high ceilings to maximise storage capacity. The site is already handling more than 30,000 units per day weeks after the warehouse launch, reflecting huge customer demand.

Sustainability was the major focus during the building of the warehouse. The facility uses LED lighting throughout, including dedicated



(Centre) Mathieu Friedberg, CEO, CEVA Logistics; (left) Antonio Munoz, Vice President, Contract Logistics, IMEA, CEVA Logistics along with (right) Mehmet Saygan, Country Manager, Contract Logistics, UAE, CEVA Logistics

recycling stations for cardboard and plastic, and is fitted with around 1,600 sqm of solar panels. These steps are aimed at lowering energy use and reducing the facility emissions.

### IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

On the other hand, the launch comes at a time when the online retail market in the Gulf region is booming. The Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) expects e-commerce sales in the emirate to reach as much as US\$ 8 billion, reflecting consumer appetite for faster and more reliable deliveries. This growth is pressurising logistics providers to expand their networks, adopt

smarter technologies, and improve efficiency.

By opening this warehouse, the objective of the firm is to help its customers keep pace with the demand, while keeping high standards of service and sustainability.

Antonio Munoz, Vice President, Contract Logistics, India, the Middle East, and Africa, CEVA Logistics, said, "The project is proof of our ability to respond quickly to customer needs. We are focusing on practical innovation and scalable solutions in high-growth markets."

### E-comm growth is pressurising logistics providers to expand their networks, adopt smarter tech

The turnaround is driven by rising demand from customers looking for flexible, scalable warehousing, and fulfilment solutions in the UAE region. Many e-commerce and retail businesses are looking for partners who can handle large volumes, provide quick delivery, and adjust operations as their sales grow.

The new warehouse is designed to meet the requirements, offers multiple storage

options, automated processes, and easy access to transport routes across the UAE and the GCC countries.

CEVA Logistics, a global leader in third-party logistics, connects people, products, and providers across 170 countries. Headquartered in Marseille, France, the company offers end-to-end solutions in contract logistics, air, ocean, ground, and finished vehicle transport. With around 110,000 employees operating across 1,500 facilities, CEVA generated US\$18.3 billion in revenue in 2024. As part of the CMA CGM Group, the company leverages a global network in sea, land, air, and logistics services to provide integrated supply chain solutions for businesses worldwide. 🚚

### QUICK FACTS

- ❖ 23,000 sqm warehouse with 20m-high ceilings
- ❖ Handles over 30,000 units per day
- ❖ Focus on e-commerce and retail fulfilment
- ❖ LED lighting, recycling stations, 1,600 sqm solar panels
- ❖ Close to Al Maktoum International Airport and major trade routes



# Liège becomes latest European hub for Emirates SkyCargo

After years of steady demand, handled through ad hoc services, Emirates SkyCargo is making Liège a permanent part of its freight network. The airline will now run five weekly freighters to the Belgian cargo hub, marking its first new cargo destination and setting the tone for a year of network growth.

 CT Bureau

Emirates SkyCargo has increased its reach to Liège, Europe’s most important cargo gateways. Located in the heart of the Amsterdam–Paris–Frankfurt corridor, the airport offers fast road links and a cargo-first operating model that benefits freight operators. Five weekly freighters have been launched by the carrier to the cargo hub.

Last year, Liège Airport recorded a 14 per cent increase in air cargo volumes, driven by e-commerce, pharmaceuticals, and specialised cargo.

“The new scheduled services connect Liège with major global airports. This development clearly shows the fast increasing importance of the Liège Airport in the European air cargo industry and is strengthening our position as the biggest European freighter



**Torsten Wefers**  
VP, Sales and Marketing  
Liège Airport

hub, with a focus on the pharmaceuticals, fresh goods, live animal and express,” Torsten Wefers, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Liège Airport, said, commenting on the new services.

On the other hand, Emirates SkyCargo is already

*Earlier, the airline flew ad hoc freighters into Liège, moving fresh-cut flowers and e-commerce*

familiar with the airport. In the past years, the airline flew ad hoc freighters into Liège, moving things like fresh-cut flowers and e-commerce shipments to chartered loads of horses travelling to international competitions.

With demand continuing to rise, the move to scheduled services from Liège was the natural next step.

The five weekly freighters will add around 500 tonnes of cargo capacity per week. Three flights will connect Liège with Chicago O’Hare and Dubai World Central, supporting the movement of temperature-

sensitive pharmaceutical shipments through a controlled cool chain. The remaining two freighters will run from Hong Kong, carrying e-commerce shipment into Europe and onward through Liège’s extensive road network.

“Liège strengthens our European network and gives customers faster, more reliable options. We already moved over 15,000 tonnes from Belgium last year, and with these freighters, we expect to grow significantly,” said Khawla Abdulla, Vice President, Cargo Commercial, Europe, Emirates SkyCargo.

Meanwhile, Europe has always been a core market for Emirates SkyCargo, with a mixture of freighters and passenger flights supporting global trade flows. With the addition of Liège, the carrier is signalling plans to build cargo capacity where demand is strongest, while continuing to expand new routes throughout the year. 🇸🇦



**Network update**

- First Emirates SkyCargo freighter destination to Liège this year
- The carrier launches five weekly freighters
- 500 tonnes of extra cargo is flown each week
- Builds on 15,000 tonnes transported from Belgium last year
- Signals wider freighter network growth planned this year

**Liège's cargo advantage**

- Located on Europe’s Amsterdam–Paris–Frankfurt cargo corridor
- Strong road links enabling fast regional distribution
- Purpose-built, freighter-focused operations
- Major hub for pharma, e-commerce, fresh-cut flowers, and live animals
- 14% cargo growth in 2025, underlining rising volumes

# Why **middle-mile matters** for perishable cargo

Perishables demand constant monitoring and freighters across the globe face challenges while transporting fragile and time-sensitive cargo from one destination to another. However, with precautions in place, this cargo movement can be smooth and efficient, says **Tayssir Awada, Chief Services Officer, SolitAir Holding**, in an interview.

 CT Bureau

Transporting perishables, such as food, pharmaceuticals, and cut flowers, comes with a unique set of challenges. At its core, moving these shipments is a race against time and physics. While shipment acceptance and final delivery are important the most critical challenges arise during the middle-mile logistics, when cargo is in transit and conditions must be tightly controlled.

## PERISHABLE LOGISTICS

Temperature control, prompt delivery, and proper packaging



**Tayssir Awada**  
Chief Services Officer  
SolitAir Holding

are crucial to keeping perishable shipments safe. Correct temperature prevents spoilage, timely transit reduces quality loss, and suitable packaging

---

*To minimise delays, spoilage, or regulatory issues, the airline relies on cold chain management*

---

protects goods, while maintaining required conditions. Even small errors can lead to total shipment loss.

To minimise risks such as delays, spoilage, or regulatory issues, the carrier relies on cold chain management and contingency planning.

Tayssir Awada, Chief Services Officer, SolitAir Holding, said each step is supported by real-time temperature and location monitoring, fast transport routes, and specialised packaging.

Pre-checking documentation and regulatory compliance ensure shipments clear customs smoothly, avoiding unnecessary delays, and keeping operations efficient.

## SPECIALISED PACKAGING

Speaking about high-technology and sensitive cargo, including electronics or batteries, he said, "They need specialised packaging, controlled environmental conditions, and adherence to safety regulations, especially for lithium batteries, enhanced security, and skilled handling to prevent damage, data loss, or safety hazards."

Security, documentation, and compliance for high-value shipments, are managed through protocols, record-keeping, and tracking, thereby ensuring compliance with customs, insurance, and regulatory standards.

Route planning, secure packaging, minimal handling, and procedures help protect fragile goods, while meeting delivery deadlines.

Perishable and sensitive cargo rely on planning, execution, and monitoring, he added. Logistics providers can ensure goods arrive safely, meet quality standards, and cater to customer expectations and regulatory requirements. 



# Logistics companies to transport **bulk cargo** by rail

While transporting freight by road is convenient, it also adds to congestion and delays. To address this, Etihad Rail has launched a new campaign encouraging logistics providers, manufacturers, and heavy industries in the UAE to move long-haul freight from road to rail — to make cargo transport faster, more reliable, and better for the environment.

CT Bureau

With the logistics sector growing quickly in the UAE, roads are getting busier than before, deliveries less predictable, and operating costs rising significantly. The campaign emphasises rail freight is not just an idea but a practical, proven solution to handle large volumes of cargo efficiently.

As part of the UAE’s ‘Projects of the 50’, Etihad Rail supports national economic diversification and sustainable development. Its integrated transport system improves supply chain efficiency, reduces emissions, and strengthens regional



Omar Alsebeyi  
Acting CEO  
Etihad Rail Freight

connectivity. The Etihad Rail network currently includes freight operations across as many as 11 terminals and four major ports and will expand to include passenger services

*The rail network currently includes freight ops across as many as 11 terminals and four major ports*

from 2026, linking urban and economic centres across the Emirates.

For those companies handling bulk cargo, the scale and reliability of rail can certainly make a huge difference — helping companies plan better and manage costs more

effectively. “For heavy industries, logistics is no longer about speed, it is increasingly about certainty. Delays, congestion, and unpredictable costs have real impacts. Rail solves these issues by offering scale, reliability, and predictability, day in and day out,” said Omar Alsebeyi, Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Etihad Rail Freight.

The campaign is not only about replacing



road transport, since trucks stay essential for last-mile deliveries, but about shifting long-haul cargo to rail to make the entire system more efficient.

*Trains can carry the same load as 300 trucks, thereby reducing congestion on major roads*

This rebalancing helps both industries and the larger transport network. Etihad Rail's campaign will run across trade media, industry forums, and digital platforms, with case studies showing how rail integration is already helping sectors handling construction materials, petrochemicals, metals, and container cargo.

By moving long-haul and bulk cargo by rail, logistics companies



reduce pressure on roads and position themselves to grow more confidently. Speaking about the benefits of rail integration, Alsebeyi said, "The national rail network is designed to support growth

for decades, and those logistics companies that start using it now can gain a real advantage through long-term costs, more reliable and faster deliveries." The Etihad Rail Freight trains can carry the same load as around 300 trucks, thereby reducing congestion on major roads.

In today's fast-expanding industrial landscape, the rail freight is no longer a choice; it is a strategic tool for staying competitive, he added. 🚂

**RAIL BENEFITS**

- ❖ One train can carry as much as 300 trucks
- ❖ Rail runs on reliable schedules with less congestion
- ❖ Transport costs are lower and more predictable
- ❖ Industries can plan production with confidence
- ❖ Fewer trucks on the road reduce emissions



# The future of project cargo

Innovation and collaboration were in focus as logistics and supply chain leaders gathered to explore the future of heavy-lift and project cargo at Breakbulk Middle East 2026, organised on 4–5 February. It was a great success, with connections made and milestones achieved.





# Sustainable push to Egypt's regional logistics hub

By implementing faster customs clearance and introducing modern warehouse facilities, Kadmar International's Ain Sokhan Logistics Centre is helping businesses move goods efficiently. The initiative is also strengthening Egypt's role as a strong international trade hub. The firm is also planning a new logistics project in the Golden Triangle.



The newly expanded logistics centre now covers 110,000 sqm, including 75,000 sqm of container yards and 25,000 sqm of warehouse space. The US\$ 35 million investment is designed to improve supply chain efficiency, reduce delays, and lower logistics costs.

The project is designed to boost supply chain efficiency, reduce customs clearance times, and lower logistics costs. The centre's operational capacity in 2025 reached 120,000 TEUs, 360,000 tonnes of general cargo, and 50,000 tonnes of other goods. About half of the facility's electricity needs are supplied through solar power, reflecting Kadmar's focus on sustainable operations.



**Engineer Medhat El Kady**  
Vice Chairman  
Kadmar Shipping Group

*The project stands as a key step in the firm's strategy to expand regionally and modernise logistics ops*

"The project stands as a key step in the firm's strategy to expand regionally and modernise logistics ops. The facility is not just a warehouse, but an integrated platform aimed at maximising efficiency, backing Egypt's broader infra development," said Engineer Medhat El Kady, Vice Chairman, Kadmar Shipping Group.

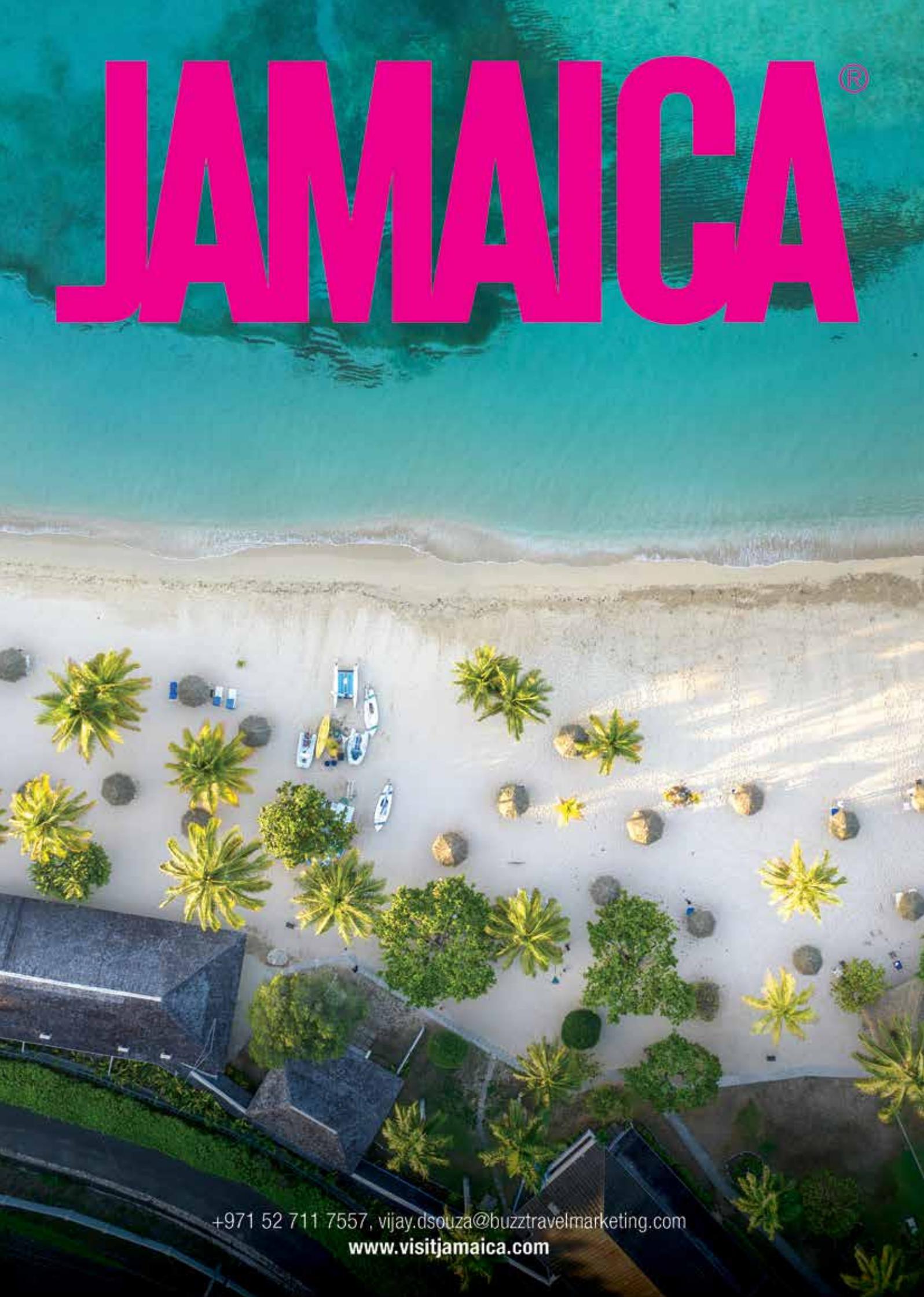
The second phase, built after first phase inauguration in 2023, fortifies Kadmar's role in national projects, including ferrying high-voltage transformers, supporting the Egypt-KSA electrical interconnection, and contributing to high-speed rail and monorail developments.

Kadmar plans a new logistics project in the Golden Triangle area of Safaga, covering 65,000 sqm, which is likely to

start in the first half of 2027. The firm has announced a JV with Globe, to invest in terminals, seaports, and logistics zones. The expansion may enhance Egypt's position as a regional logistics hub.



# JAMAICA<sup>®</sup>

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The top half of the image shows clear turquoise water meeting a white sandy beach. The middle section is dominated by a wide expanse of white sand, scattered with numerous palm trees and other tropical vegetation. Several small boats are beached in the center. The bottom portion of the image shows the dark, thatched roofs of several buildings, likely a resort or local dwellings, partially obscured by more trees and a fence line.

+971 52 711 7557, vijay.dsouza@buzztravelmarketing.com

[www.visitjamaica.com](http://www.visitjamaica.com)

# New warehouse to support Gulf region's aviation ecosystem

With the Middle East coming up as one of the fastest-growing aviation markets, maintenance and logistics systems have become more important than ever. FL Technics' warehouse is more than just a storage facility — it will help airlines and aviation companies access critical parts faster, reduce delays, and keep their fleets flying efficiently.



CT Bureau

FL Technics, an international provider of aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) solutions, has opened an aviation spare parts warehouse in Dubai. The move strengthens the company's capability to support the airlines across the Middle East and Africa with faster access to critical parts.

The new facility is situated near Al Maktoum International Airport, which is set to become one of the world's largest aviation hubs. This location allows the company to respond quickly to customer needs, thereby reducing delivery times for essential aircraft spares and improving operational reliability.

"Component availability is one of the crucial factors in aircraft maintenance. By positioning our warehouse closer to customers, we can respond faster to their needs and



**Viktor Bulanov**  
Head, Sales & Customer Support Unit, Engines, Airframes, and Materials Services, FL Technics

*The warehouse stores rotatable components and high-value parts, a must for aircraft operations*

support them more efficiently," said Viktor Bulanov, Head, Sales & Customer Support Unit,

Engines, Airframes, and Materials Services, FL Technics.

Previously, spare parts for airlines in the Gulf region were shipped from FL Technics' logistics hubs in Europe, Asia, and North America, including Vilnius, Kaunas, Frankfurt, Singapore, and Miami. While this network serves global customers, the demand in the Middle East has highlighted the requirement for a dedicated local warehouse.

The Dubai warehouse stores rotatable components and high-value parts that are a must for aircraft operations. By keeping these components closer, the company assists in reducing aircraft-on-ground (AOG) situations and keeps operations running smoothly. Inventory is selected based on operational data and customer usage patterns.

"Our inventory decisions are guided by real usage patterns," Bulanov explained.

"This ensures the right components are always on hand for the customers."

The warehouse's opening is part of Avia Solutions Group's effort to expand in the Gulf. The firm is strengthening its presence across multiple aviation business areas and aims to support the region's growing aviation ecosystem.

## FAST FACTS

- ❖ Faster delivery of spares reduces AOG delays
- ❖ Stores critical rotatable components
- ❖ Inventory based on real usage data
- ❖ Part of wider Avia Solutions Group expansion

JOIN AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP  
OF PROPERTIES WORLDWIDE  
THAT SET THE GLOBAL  
BENCHMARK

THE WORLD'S GOLD STANDARD IN  
HOTEL SUSTAINABILITY IS HERE

GSTC CERTIFICATION NOW IN INDIA

MORE GUESTS.  
LOWER COSTS.  
STRONGER BRAND.  
SMARTER SUSTAINABILITY.

+91 9871003279

AUDITED BY QUALSTAR, CERTIFIED BY UC SL



United  
Certification  
Systems



QUALSTAR.CO.IN

# Riyadh Cargo forays into air cargo sector in the Middle East

Riyadh Air has officially launched Riyadh Cargo, marking its first step into international air freight. The service operates on the Riyadh–London Heathrow route. The airline also exports shipments, including high-value and time-sensitive products through its many flights across the world.

CT Bureau

The major move is part of Riyadh Air’s plan to make the city a key hub for global trade and logistics. Riyadh Cargo will use space on the airline’s wide-body aircraft; 120 more aircraft have been ordered. This allows the airline to move goods efficiently around the world, while growing alongside its passenger network. The service runs on routes such as Riyadh–London Heathrow route transporting products, such as garments, fresh flowers, seafood, tea, and coffee. These shipments show Riyadh Cargo’s ability to handle time-sensitive and high-value goods reliably.

“Riyadh Cargo has been launched with a focus on operational discipline, reliability, and long-term scalability,” said



**Pravin Singh**  
Global Head, Cargo  
Riyadh Air

*As the airline expands to 100 destinations, it is likely to contribute US\$ 20 billion to KSA’s non-oil GDP*

Pravin Singh, Global Head, Cargo, Riyadh Air. “Launching within a live environment allows us to test, learn, and continuously refine how we operate, while delivering value to our customers from the word go.”

Digital technology is central to Riyadh Cargo’s operations. The airline has integrated advanced cargo management systems, centralised airwaybill control, and real-time tracking. A partnership with CHAMPS’s Cargospot-neo platform provides end-to-end digital management, helping teams make faster decisions and sustain high service standards. Riyadh Cargo uses digitally tracked ULDs in partnership with Unilode, which allow better monitoring, visibility, and smoother cargo handling.

On the ground, Riyadh Cargo works with SATS Saudi Arabia to manage cargo at major airports, including King Khalid International in Riyadh,

King Fahd International in Dammam, and King Abdulaziz International in Jeddah. These facilities have modern equipment, dedicated zones, and centralised hub management, ensuring shipments move efficiently and safely.

As Riyadh Air expands to 100 destinations and 180 aircraft by 2030, it is likely to contribute US\$ 20 billion to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s non-oil GDP. Riyadh Cargo will play a significant role in this growth, supporting KSA’s ambition to become a leading international aviation and logistics hub.

## SNAPSHOTS

- ❖ Key route is Riyadh–London Heathrow
- ❖ Cargo includes garments, flowers, seafood, tea, coffee
- ❖ Digital systems include CHAMPS Cargo spot-neo and tracked ULDs
- ❖ Handling managed by SATS KSA at Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah



# Join NAFL / FIATA to get connected for networking and business opportunities



## Here's why you should consider being a member:

### International Benefits:

- + The FIATA member certificate
- + Use of the Fiata logo
- + Entry in the FIATA members directory & networking events
- + Advertising in the FIATA members directory, review and information (FIATA e-Flash)
- + Special Rates for FIATA publication and articles
- + Access to secretariat's assistance
- + FIATA arbitration code
- + Use of FIATA documents
- + FIATA worldwide member connectivity
- + Talent Connect Worldwide, E-Learning

### National Benefits:

- + The NAFL member certificate
- + Use of the NAFL logo
- + Free access to networking events
- + Discounted rates in participating in global and regional conferences
- + Assistance in case of legal advocacy
- + Discounts for cargo/logistic events and exhibition stands
- + Discount training for NAFL members
- + Training/Certification for regional/international courses
- + Insurance at discounted rates (cargo/liability/medical)
- + Complimentary internship, Skill upgrade and Mentoring & Innovation ideas
- + Discounted supplier rates for industry products

**Be the industry voice, protect yourself by STC, Insurance and maritime advice, network B2B, B2C**

### ACCREDITATIONS



## NAFL : National Association of Freight & Logistics

P.O. Box 60944 Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 3431112, Reyan Abdullah +971 56 146 5001

Register at [info@nafl.ae](mailto:info@nafl.ae) or [marketing@nafl.ae](mailto:marketing@nafl.ae), [www.nafl.ae](http://www.nafl.ae)



# Oman launches heavy-lift drones for remote logistics

Drones are the future of air cargo. Unmanned aircraft are seen as the solution to overcome difficult terrain and remoteness, enabling faster, safer, and more flexible movement of goods across borders. Oman has achieved a technological milestone with the launch of Sahn drone, the first locally assembled heavy-lift cargo drone in the Gulf.

 CT Bureau

Designed to support long-distance transport, the Sahn drones can carry loads of up to 250 kg and fly as far as 300 km, opening possibilities in the logistics sector and supply delivery across the Sultanate. Unlike smaller drones used mainly for monitoring or

photography, Sahn drone is built for real operational use. Its size and capacity allows it to transport medical supplies, equipment, and other critical cargo to locations that are difficult to reach by road, especially in mountainous and remote areas.

“This drone is the result of Omani expertise. It proves



**Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Harthy**  
CEO  
Ibn Firnas Centre for Drones

that advanced technology can be developed and assembled locally to meet national needs," said Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Harthy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ibn Firnas Centre for Drones.

To demonstrate its capabilities, the Sahn drone completed its first mission by transporting 100 kg of medical supplies over as many as 100 km. The flight crossed challenging terrain, including mountains and valleys.

This successful mission showed how drone technology can help solve real-world transport challenges, particularly in emergencies or time-sensitive situations.

The results of this flight also confirmed the Sahn drone's readiness for larger and heavier tasks. With its higher payload capacity and extended range, the drone is suited for strategic logistics missions that require speed, reliability, and reduced dependence on traditional transport routes.

Al Harthy explained, "What we have seen so far is only the beginning. The Sahn drone can fly longer distances and carry heavier loads, which will allow it

to play a significant role in healthcare, logistics, and future smart transport systems, among others."

Beyond the launch of the Sahn drone, the project further reflects the Sultanate of Oman's wider push towards technology development and industrial growth.

By continuously investing in drone manufacturing, air-space management systems, and specialised aerial solutions, the country is building a foundation for next-generation logistics and aviation

---

*The drone, in its first mission, transported 100 kg of medical supplies over as many as 100 km*

---

services. The launch stands for more than a new aircraft. It signals a shift toward smarter, faster, and more flexible

transport solutions, positioning Oman as an emerging player in advanced drone logistics within the region. 🇦🇴

## QUICK FACTS

- ❖ First locally assembled heavy-lift cargo drone in the Gulf region
- ❖ Payload capacity of up to 250 kg with a flight range of 300 km
- ❖ Designed for real cargo operations
- ❖ Ferried medical supplies weighing 100 kg
- ❖ Proven ability to navigate mountains and remote terrain
- ❖ Offers new solutions for healthcare, emergency response, and logistics
- ❖ Marks Oman's growing role in advanced drone-based cargo transport

# Muscat-Kigali route opens doors for East Africa trade

Every new cargo route opens doors and opportunities for new trade and connections. Oman Air Cargo's new cargo route makes it easier for businesses in East Africa and the Middle East to shift products quickly and reach new markets. It also enables EXIM players to explore opportunities in places they could not reach before.

CT Bureau

This move comes as part of Oman Air Cargo's efforts to grow its network, offering more opportunities for trade and cargo movement. The Muscat-Kigali flights are set to start in June 2026, using scheduled B-737 passenger services, once all regulatory approvals are given. This route will make it easier for exporters and businesses to move air cargo quickly and securely between East Africa, the Middle East, and beyond.

The route will focus on transporting perishables, such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, pharma, general cargo, and express shipments. Once cargo reaches Muscat, it can continue on to the Middle East, Europe, and the Indian subcontinent, thereby strengthening Muscat's role as



(L to R) Hon. Amb. Uwihanganye Jean de Dieu, Rwanda Minister of State for Infrastructure, and Con Korfiatis, CEO, Oman Air, at the launch of direct flights to Kigali



Michael Duggan  
Head, Cargo  
Oman Air

*The new route into East Africa reflects the airline's move of linking markets and supporting global trade*

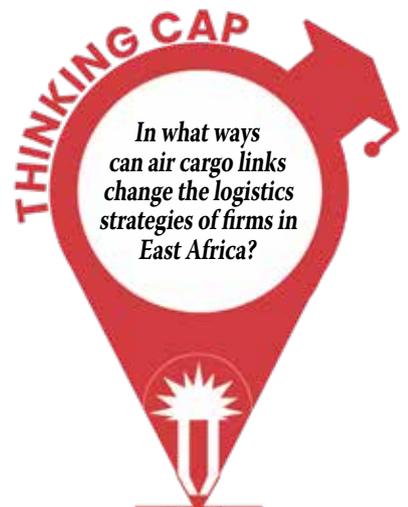
a key transit hub and making it easier for African exports to reach buyers worldwide.

"Demand between the Middle East and Africa has been growing steadily, especially for fresh produce and specialist cargo. This new route gives us the capacity to meet that demand, while providing our customers with dependable service," said Michael Duggan, Head, Cargo, Oman Air, said.

The expansion into East Africa reflects Oman Air Cargo's broader strategy of connecting new markets and supporting global trade. By opening this route, the airline is helping exporters,

importers, and logistics partners move goods efficiently, while offering customers options for timely deliveries.

"We look forward to welcoming more guests on board and giving them the chance to experience our Omani hospitality," added Con Korfiatis, CEO, Oman Air. With the new route, the airline continues to grow its presence in Africa, giving businesses a reliable partner for ferrying goods.



# SONO

HOTELS & RESORTS



# Aussie-based firm to **expand portfolio**, launch digital products

In today's rapidly changing world, logistics companies need to work faster. With more online shopping and complex supply chains, traditional ways of running warehouses are not enough. Meeting this demand, Aramex is upgrading its ops to make its warehouses more efficient, accurate, and ready for global trade challenges.



James Newman, Vice President, Softeon, & Managing Director, EMEA, with Françoise Russo, Chief Technology Officer, Aramex

## CT Bureau

Aramex is upgrading its operations with Softeon's Warehouse Management System (WMS) across 70 facilities in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East. Softeon, a tier I WMS provider, focuses on optimising warehouses and fulfilment performances, helping companies increase efficiency, reduce errors, and scale operations quickly.

"This collaboration reinforces our growth across the Middle East and Africa and showcases the power of our 3PL-focused WMS, featuring advanced billing, labour management, and a warehouse execution system to deliver results in high-volume operations," said Jim Hoefflin, Chief Executive Officer, Softeon, while speaking about the partnership.

The move is part of the company's efforts to make its warehouses smarter and focused on customers. The Softeon system offers advanced features such as integrated billing and labour management, allowing Ara-

### *The collaboration brings together Softeon's technology and Aramex's logistics capability*

mex to optimise complex fulfilment processes and serve sectors, such as e-commerce, healthcare, energy, and retail, effectively. With better visibility and control over its operations, Aramex could respond faster to market demands and

ensure a smoother flow of products across its international network.

The collaboration brings together Softeon system and Aramex's logistics ability. Teams from both companies worked closely at Softeon's Chennai office in India to plan the rollout, ensuring that the system could be deployed efficiently across multiple countries. By standardising processes and introducing automation, Aramex aims to speed up order processing, reduce operational bottlenecks, and improve overall service levels for its customers.

With Softeon's WMS supporting Aramex's global operations, the partnership is expected to drive innovation and strengthen customer experiences. The system's capabilities in high-volume environments mean the company can handle

growing e-commerce demand, fulfilment needs, and diverse industry needs sans compromising speed or accuracy. This upgrade makes Aramex stay ahead in the logistics market, making its warehouses agile and efficient. 🚀

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ 70 warehouses upgraded with Softeon WMS technology
- ❖ Advanced features include billing, labour management, and WES
- ❖ Boosts efficiency, accuracy, and speed of operations
- ❖ Supports e-commerce, healthcare, energy, and retail sectors



# New **Gulf base** aims to deliver faster, smarter cargo solutions

In a world that moves faster daily, the way goods travel shapes how people live and businesses grow. Every shipment that carries products also carries opportunities, links, and trust. For CargoCrew, opening ops in the Gulf is not about expanding business — it is about building a hub where trade is smoother and deliveries are faster.

 CT Bureau

**C**argoCrew, a global air cargo and logistics company, has launched its Middle Eastern operations with a new regional headquarters in Dubai. The move marks a big step for the company as it expands its presence around the world.

Dubai is fast becoming a major hub for trade, e-commerce, and international cargo. Its strong infrastructure, excellent airports, and business-friendly environment make it an ideal base for companies, such as CargoCrew. By setting up in Dubai, CargoCrew aims to connect continents, airlines, and customers with faster, smarter, and more flexible cargo solutions.

“Launching CargoCrew is a milestone for our group. Dubai gives us a powerful platform to connect with



**Hakan Ikizoglu**  
Founder and Chairman  
CargoCrew Group

customers through smarter cargo solutions. Our focus is on flexibility, visibility, and long-term partnership,” said Hakan Ikizoglu, Founder and Chairman, CargoCrew Group.

CargoCrew’s UAE operations began in 2025 and include airline representation, commercial cargo management, capacity optimisation, and digital cargo solutions.

---

*The Dubai hub will get help from CargoCrew’s airline network, its established European presence*

---

The company focuses on high-growth cargo segments such as e-commerce, pharma, perishables, general cargo, project cargo, and express logistics. Partnerships with freight forwarders and shippers will support these efforts.

The Dubai hub will receive help from CargoCrew’s growing airline network, its established European presence, and strategic partners across Asia and Africa. The company is investing in warehousing, fulfillment, and last-mile delivery to provide end-to-end solutions.

Over the next 12 to 24 months, the firm plans to expand its airline portfolio, grow its regional team, launch new digital platforms, and fortify logistics partnerships. The Dubai HQ will play a vital role in driving its growth in the region and supporting its global ambitions. 🚀





# New warehouse for safe chemical supply chains

With requirement for safe storage solutions in great demand, chemicals, vital in industrial operations, need highly controlled environments ensuring safety. In response, GFH Partners, with Palmon Group, is building specialised warehouses for safe chemical storage, supporting regulated supply chains and the region’s logistics needs.



GFH Partners Manrre REIT, managed by GFH Partners with development by Palmon Group, has opened a new temperature-controlled chemical warehouse in Jafza, expanding the Fund’s Grade A logistics portfolio.

The facility is designed to meet the demand for chemical storage in the UAE, backing sectors such as manufacturing, energy, among others.

“This new facility brings precision engineering, regulatory compliance, and long-term value creation. Specialised chemical storage requires a high degree of control and risk management, and we have developed this warehouse to meet those expectations, while offering flexibility and scalability for tenants. As one of the earliest developers in Jafza, the group is committed to supporting



**Kunal Lahori**  
CEO, Palmon Group &  
Board Member, Manrre

the UAE’s logistics and industrial growth,” said Kunal Lahori, CEO, Palmon Group and Board Member, Manrre.

The warehouse is situated on a 180,000 sqft plot with a built-up area of 112,000 sqft. It is divided into three temperature-controlled chambers, each configured to handle different hazard-classified chemicals. One chamber is designed for UN Class III and IV chemicals, a second for UN Class V,

*The warehouse is divided into three chambers, each to handle different hazard-classified chemicals*

and a third for UN Class VI, VIII, IX, and non-regulated materials. The facility offers storage capacity for 17,400 pallets with nine loading docks and three loading bays, while office space is limited to just 3 per cent of the total area to prioritise efficiency and maximise warehouse utility.

The warehouse is equipped with advanced Early Suppression Fast Response systems and in-rack sprinklers to ensure high levels of protection for all stored chemicals. The facility’s layout and technology will provide flexibility and allow it to adapt to the changing

storage needs of tenants, as per stringent safety standards.

The warehouse is fully operational and leased to Safe Logistics. It is likely to strengthen regulated supply chains, provide secure storage for a diverse range of chemicals, and reinforce Dubai’s position as a leading logistics and industrial hub in the region.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Fully operational and leased out to Safe Logistics
- ❖ Designed for flexibility and scalable operations
- ❖ Supports supply chains and Dubai’s logistics hub status
- ❖ Facility to reinforce Dubai’s position as a logistics/industrial hub

# Easing e-commerce scaling in a fast-moving world

In today's evolving trade landscape, growth is not just about moving goods faster. Firms need smart tools, data, and automation to understand markets and expand successfully. Recognising this, Gulf Warehousing Company (GWC) is combining its logistics with AI and automation to help businesses scale faster and enter new markets.

CT Bureau

A leading logistics provider in Qatar, GWC, has announced a collaboration with European cloud platform, Apify, to help e-commerce businesses expand into new markets and scale faster. The partnership combines GWC's extensive logistics network with Apify's AI-driven data and automation tools.

Together, they aim to simplify the challenges digital-first businesses face, from understanding market demand and competitive trends to managing cross-border operations



**Matthew Kearns**  
Acting Group CEO  
GWC

efficiently. By merging logistics, data, and automation into one ecosystem, collaboration reduces the technical and

operational barriers that often slow down growing e-commerce players.

Through this initiative, GWC will provide regional market access, logistics integration, and support for cross-border execution, while Apify contributes AI agents, automation tools, and cloud-based workflows. The offering allows e-commerce businesses to make smarter decisions, accelerate market entry, and scale operations with confidence.

"At GWC, our goal is to help businesses grow, enter new markets, and scale smoothly. By integrating

logistics, data, and AI, we are building an ecosystem that supports faster expansion and smarter, more efficient operations for e-commerce players," commented Matthew Kearns, Acting Group CEO, GWC.

*The offering allows e-commerce businesses to make smarter decisions and accelerate market entry*

This collaboration positions the firm not just as a logistics provider, but as an enabler of a connected e-commerce ecosystem that bridges infra, intelligence, and execution. By utilising tech and automation alongside its logistics expertise, GWC is helping digital-first businesses overcome growth hurdles and seize new opportunities in the global e-commerce landscape. 🚀



## QUICK LOOK

- ❖ Helps businesses expand into new markets faster
- ❖ Supports product discovery, demand analysis
- ❖ GWC is an enabler of linked e-commerce ecosystems
- ❖ Builds an ecosystem that supports faster expansion

# 2026

## Upcoming Events

### MARCH

- 2 **AirportIS Forum**  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 3 **International Conference on Aviation Logistics and Air Cargo**  
Maseru, Lesotho
- 5-6 **CargoIS Forum 2026**  
Miami, USA
- 9-13 **WCA Worldwide Conference**  
Singapore
- 10-12 **World Cargo Symposium (WCS)**  
Lima, Peru
- 16 **Aviation and Aerospace Engineering Conferences**  
Dubai
- 17 **Saudi International Airshow**  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 20 **Lean and Agile Supply Chain Practices**  
Dubai
- 23-25 **Cargo Facts Asia**  
Shanghai, China
- 25 **Global Event Logistics Summit**  
Abu Dhabi

### APRIL

- 8-9 **IATA World Data Symposium**  
Singapore
- 8-9 **Wings of Change Americas (WOCA)**  
Santiago, Chile
- 14-16 **Intermodal South America**  
Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 14-16 **Routes Asia 2026**  
Xi'an, China
- 17 **Int'l Conference on Smart Logistics and Digital Transformation in Business**  
Dubai
- 20-22 **Future Aviation Forum (FAF 2026)**  
Riyadh

**For more information contact: talk@ddppl.com**

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

# UAE–Philippines to strengthen trade, growth

As trade and logistics sectors continue to grow, the UAE is looking beyond its borders and building economic ties with other nations to boost trade, investment, supply chain opportunities, while creating new pathways for growth and collaboration.



Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr, President of the Philippines, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, at the CEPA signing ceremony

 CT Bureau

The UAE and the Philippines have opened a new chapter in their economic relationship with the signing of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The agreement is designed to make it easier for businesses in the duo to trade goods and services, invest in key sectors, and collaborate on logistics and supply chain solutions.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, described the CEPA as a reflection of the UAE's efforts to build partnerships with other nations. He reaffirmed the UAE's commitment to support global economic growth, shared prosperity, and long-term opportunities.

By reducing tariffs, removing trade barriers, and promoting closer economic relations, the trade pact aims to promote smoother flow of goods, faster

delivery times, and more predictable costs for companies running across borders. It also opens opportunities for SMEs to expand their reach, access new markets, and strengthen partnerships, supporting growth and competitiveness.

Trade between the UAE and the Philippines has been growing steadily. Bilateral non-oil trade reached US\$ 940 million in 2024 and topped US\$ 853.7 million in the first nine months of 2025, marking a 22 per cent YoY increase. Today, the UAE is the Philippines' top export destination in Arab and African countries and its the 17<sup>th</sup> largest trade partner globally. With the CEPA now in place, it is expected to boost the UAE's GDP by roughly US\$ 2.4 billion by 2032.

Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr, President of the Philippines, highlighted the agreement's role in boosting Philippine exports, attracting investment, and strengthening economic resilience. He called

the CEPA a milestone in the growing friendship and cooperation between the two nations. Beyond goods, the trade agreement is likely to enhance logistics and supply chain efficiency. Besides, the CEPA can help firms better plan shipments, manage inventories, and improve delivery reliability. This will be important for sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture.



# VTOL aircraft help remote, emergency logistics

From emergency resupply to time-critical deliveries, logistics teams often face situations where speed and reach are crucial, and unmanned air transport is seen as a key tool to address these challenges. The development of VTOL aircraft by Calidus Holding Group, Hameem Technologies, and Aergility reflects how aviation is shaped.



To develop unmanned VTOL aircraft for cargo and logistics, Calidus Holding Group has partnered with Hameem Technologies and US-based Aergility. The collaboration has brought together local manufacturing, autonomous flight technology, and cargo aviation ability to support unmanned air logistics in the Gulf and beyond.

The two under development aircraft, ALRASID and ALTARESH, are built to transport payloads without the need for a crew on board. This makes them useful for operations in remote locations, difficult terrain, or areas where ground transport is limited. Production of these aircraft will take place at Calidus' facilities in Abu Dhabi, supporting local industrial capacity and faster deployment.

ALTARESH is the larger of the two and is designed for



**Dr Khalifa Murad Alblooshi**  
Managing Director and CEO  
Calidus Holding Group

long-range logistics missions. It can carry payloads of up to 500 pounds over 500 miles, thus making it suitable for sustained cargo flow, operational resupply, and emergency logistics. Its design allows it to take off and land vertically, while flying over longer distances, thereby reducing the need for runways and specialised infra.

ALRASID is smaller and compact and suited for short-range logistics support. While

## Two VTOLs combine the lift capability of a chopper with a fixed-wing aircraft's efficiency

it is capable of surveillance, it can be adapted for time-sensitive delivery missions such as spare parts, medical supplies, and critical equipment where speed and flexibility are essential.

Both rely on Managed Autorotation technology, combining the lift capability of a helicopter with the efficiency of a fixed-wing aircraft. This approach simplifies operations and lowers operating costs thus making unmanned air logistics practical.

"This partnership reflects the Group's leadership as a fully integrated defence and manufacturing company, while underscoring the strength of the

UAE's industrial ecosystem. By aligning investment, local production, and breakthrough innovation, we are not only showcasing advanced platforms but also demonstrating our capability to deliver sovereign capabilities at scale, develop, and manufacture in the UAE, in line with the leadership's vision for advancing national defence industries," said Dr Khalifa Murad Alblooshi, MD and CEO, Calidus Holding Group.

Beyond military use, the VTOL aircraft are also designed for civilian logistics applications, including disaster response, humanitarian aid, and medical resupply.

Their ability to run without traditional airport infra gives options for supply chains that need faster and more reliable last-mile delivery. With unmanned aviation gaining momentum globally, this collaboration reflects a growing focus on autonomous logistics solutions that can improve resilience, reach, and efficiency across supply chains. 🚀



### At a glance

- Unmanned VTOL aircraft designed for cargo and logistics missions
- Production based in Abu Dhabi, strengthening local manufacturing
- Suitable for hard-to-reach and infra-limited areas
- Enables faster resupply, emergency logistics, and last-mile delivery

### Snapshot

- ALTARESH built for long-range logistics
- Its payload capacity is up to 500 pounds with a range of 500 miles
- ALRASID designed for short-range and time-sensitive deliveries
- Managed Autorotation tech improves efficiency and lowers costs

# Dubai, Kuwait advance Gulf supply chain integration

Dubai and Kuwait are working to build stronger connectivity between trade, logistics, and supply chains, reflecting the deep economic ties between the two countries. With growing cargo movements and increasing demand for faster, more reliable trade routes, the duo is focusing on customs coordination and operational alignment.



His Excellency Khaled Abdulrahim Al-Zaabi, Consul General of the State of Kuwait in Dubai and the Northern Emirates along with His Excellency Dr Abdulla Busenad, Director-General, Dubai Customs

**CT Bureau**

While Dubai is playing an important role as a regional trade and logistics hub, handling large cargo volumes moving between Asia, Europe, and Africa, Kuwait is strengthening its own trade infrastructure as part of wider efforts to improve connectivity and support economic diversification.

To support the logistics and trade growth, cooperation between Dubai and Kuwait's Customs authorities is essential. Dr Abdulla Busenad, Director-General, Dubai Customs, said that coordination with regional partners support growth of trade and helps create more efficient and resilient supply chains.

An area of focus is improving the movement of goods

*Coordination helps ensure smoother cargo clearance, lower costs for biz, and predictable supply chains*

by reducing delays and simplifying customs procedures. Coordination helps ensure smoother cargo clearance, lower costs for businesses, and predictable supply chains. This is important as companies across the region deal with challenges such as congestion, shifting trade routes, and rising transport costs.

Digitalisation and the exchange of best practices are central to this cooperation. By sharing experience in Customs

systems, risk management, and inspection processes, both sides aim to improve efficiency. These efforts support traders, freight forwarders, and LSPs of the UAE and Kuwait.

Stronger customs cooperation supports wider Gulf trade integration. As intra-GCC trade continues to grow, aligned procedures, and information sharing help create a linked regional supply chain. This benefits not only large trading firms but also SMBs looking to expand across borders.

His Excellency Khaled Abdulrahim Al-Zaabi, Consul General of the State of Kuwait in Dubai and the Northern Emirates, reaffirmed the commitment of the Consulate General of Kuwait to supporting all efforts enhancing the

level of institutional cooperation between the two sides in a manner serving mutual interests and strengthening the path of joint Gulf cooperation. Overall, there is a shared commitment to fortify trade flows between the two nations.



## Etihad Cargo boosts auto logistics for luxury vehicles

Etihad Cargo is strengthening automotive logistics offering as demand for high-performance and luxury vehicles continue to rise. The carrier is responding with specialised, white-glove transport solutions designed to move high-value cars safely from production sites to global markets, supporting dealers, and logistics partners across global supply chains. In automotive logistics, maintaining vehicle condition is critical, as minor damage during transit can affect value and delivery schedules. Using a bespoke light and heavy vehicle restraint kit, the luxury vehicles are secured over the wheels rather than the rims.



## SolitAir Holding's announces new cargo route to Egypt



SolitAir Holding has announced the launch of a new cargo route to El Arish in Egypt. The new service will link SolitAir to El Arish, strengthening trade links and improving cargo flow to and from the country. Egypt has long been a central hub for trade. The new route is designed to support reliable and scheduled cargo ops, helping businesses grow efficiently. This expansion reflects SolitAir's commitment to linking vital trade destinations. Logistics operators say the added capacity could help support growing cargo volumes and improve reliability for companies operating across the UAE-Oman corridor.

## DP World positions Dubai as gateway for food logistics



DP World has opened the Dubai Food District, a major new logistics hub designed to move food faster and efficiently across global markets. The project will transform the long-established Al Aweer Central Fruit and Vegetable Market into a large centre for food trade, storage, and distribution. Connected to DP World's wider ports and logistics network, the district will link food traders to more than 20 international markets by sea, land, and air. The district will bring cold storage, temperature-controlled warehouses, processing facilities, and distribution into one location. This setup aims to reduce delays and cut handling costs.

## New station at Jeddah airport to boost logistics capacity

Construction is set to start on a new cargo station at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah in the first quarter of 2026. It is scheduled to be completed in 2027. The US\$ 62 million project, awarded to Riyadh-based CCE, will expand handling capacity, upgrade existing structures, add support facilities, and improve efficiency and reliability in airport logistics. The station is part of SAL Saudi Logistics Services Company's plan to fortify ops and handle growing volumes. It will include modern facilities designed to streamline workflows, enhance storage and handling, and meet future operational demands. The project will be financed through Sharia-compliant bank loans, cash reserves, and other available funding.



The expansion reflects cargo demand in KSA. As Jeddah serves as a hub for logistics, the station will help reduce bottlenecks and speed up processing.

## Oman expands UAE trade corridor with new crossing

Oman has opened the Al Rawdah border crossing for commercial goods, creating a new direct trade route between Oman and the UAE. The crossing links Al Buraimi Governorate with Sharjah through the Al Madam border post, easing movement of trucks and cargo between the countries. Officials said the move will speed up cross-border shipments, reduce congestion at existing entry points and improve supply chain efficiency. The new post is likely to fortify logistics linkage across the northern UAE and Oman's interior regions. By offering an extra route for commercial vehicles, authorities aim to cut waiting times and lower transport costs for traders moving goods such as food products, construction materials and consumer items. The opening comes as both nations push to boost bilateral trade. 🇦🇪



## DHL renews ties with Airbus to manage logistics flows

DHL Supply Chain has renewed its partnership with Airbus to manage the company's global logistics flows. The collaboration, which began in 2008, now covers air, sea, road, and parcel transport, and 24x7 support for urgent Aircraft on Ground (AOG) operations. Each year, DHL handles 350,000 shipments for Airbus, coordinating flows between suppliers, factories, and customers. Two main centres in Toulouse, France, and Valencia, Spain, manage ops across Europe, the US, China, and beyond. Services include moving parts to factories, shipping components between sites, and delivering spare parts.



## PIA expands cargo reach along with Air France–KLM



Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has signed a pact with Air France-KLM to boost exports and expand its network. The deal came into effect on 15 January 2026, and allows PIA Cargo, the airline's cargo division to use Air France-KLM's network through Dubai, Riyadh, and Dammam. Under the agreement, exporters of Pakistan can transport goods using both PIA's and Air France-KLM's networks under a single air waybill, simplifying global logistics. Air France-KLM operate in 320 destinations, including Amsterdam, Paris, Brussels, Frankfurt, New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles, among others.

## China Southern expands Shenzhen–Chicago cargo flights

China Southern Airlines has increased its cargo flights between Shenzhen and Chicago to four times a week. This expansion comes in response to rising demand for cross-border e-commerce and trade between China and the US. According to the new schedule, businesses can enjoy more stable and flexible options for transporting goods. The increased frequency helps shippers transport products faster, reduce delays, and better plan their logistics. It supports a range of cargo, including e-commerce packages, electronics, and other high-demand products. Shenzhen, one of China's largest industrial and technology hubs, and Chicago, a key gateway in the US, are closely connected than ever. The new service fortifies trade links and provides a reliable route for businesses relying on timely shipments.



## Magma Aviation, MidnightZulu launch new cargo service



Magma Aviation and MidnightZulu have started a new air cargo service linking Nairobi, Kenya, with Liège, Belgium. The seasonal route operates from January through May 2026, beginning on January 20, with flights on Tuesdays. It runs alongside Magma's four existing Nairobi–Liège services, said Paul Hoatson, Commercial & Network Planning Director, Magma Aviation. The new service will back trade between East Africa and Europe, mainly Kenya's horticulture exports, which see more volumes during the winter period. The operation reflects the partnership between the two firms and responds to seasonal demand in the market.

## Liège Airport opens first direct route to Chongqing

Liège Airport has launched its first direct scheduled cargo service to Chongqing, operated by Suparna Airlines. The new route started on 5 January and links Liège with Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport, creating a direct link between Europe and Western China, Torsten, VP, Sales & Marketing, Liège Airport. Chongqing is a hub for industry, logistics, and e-commerce in China. The new link will make it easier to transport goods — e-commerce, high-tech products, automotive parts, and industrial cargo. The new route fortifies Liège's role as a gateway between China and Europe. An executive from Chongqing Airport added the service enhances trade links with Europe and boosts Chongqing's position as a logistics hub in Western China.



This launch is part of Liège Airport's plan to expand its Asian network and deepen partnerships with cargo airlines.

## Swissport opens first UK perishables centre with SCL

Swissport has opened its first dedicated perishables centre at London Heathrow Airport. The facility will handle temperature-sensitive goods, such as seafood, fresh produce, and others, strengthening Swissport's global cool-chain network. Scan Global Logistics (SCL) is the first customer to operate from the site. The purpose-built centre, covering 2,700 sqm, operates 24x7 and can handle up to 30,000 tonnes of perishables a year. It includes a border inspection post for quick airside inspections, helping goods move faster and stay fresh. Swissport will also install an automated EMIS screening machine in early 2026.



## MSC Air Cargo opens new Europe–Asia freighter route



MSC Air Cargo will start scheduled freighter flights between Milan Malpensa and Shanghai Pudong from 3 March 2026. It will use Boeing 777-200Fs and aims to meet demand for long-haul cargo between Europe and Asia. Shanghai is a major hub in the carrier's network, linking Asian markets with Europe and other global destinations. The new route will support the transport of time-sensitive and specialised goods, including auto parts, high-tech equipment, perishables, and aerospace components. The carrier recently took delivery of a second 777-200F under its European air operator certificate and also operates 777Fs through Atlas Air.

## KN expands at Frankfurt with new cargo warehouse

Kühne+Nagel (KN), a global freight provider, has signed a lease agreement for a new air cargo warehouse at Frankfurt Airport's CargoCity South. The facility, covering 16,900 sqm, will include 7,600 sqm of warehouse space and 1,100 sqm of offices and social areas. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2028. The warehouse will have 16 gates and truck docks, designed for efficient cargo handling and smooth traffic flow. It will also meet high environmental standards, with a large rooftop solar system feeding green electricity into the airport grid. Fraport aims for the building to earn the Gold certification from the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB). 🏡

## QCargo unveils AI for instant freight forwarder verification

QCargo has launched a new AI-powered compliance and verification platform to help forwarders check company credentials, screen partners, and reduce risk. The platform cuts verification time to as little as 24 hours, making it easier for forwarders to prove credibility and ensure compliance before doing business. The platform also focuses on a long-standing problem in the air cargo and freight forwarding industry: Slow and manual verification processes. Traditionally, checking certifications, financial standing, and compliance status can take two to four weeks. QCargo uses AI to cross-check company data against industry databases, certification bodies, and global sanctions lists, speeding up the process significantly.



## HKAC expands European ops with air route to Athens

Hong Kong Air Cargo (HKAC) will expand its European ops with scheduled charter flights to the Athens International Airport, starting 2 February. The flights will operate twice weekly, on Mondays and Thursdays, with return flights to Hong Kong on the same days. Athens becomes the HKAC's 14<sup>th</sup> European destination, reflecting the airline focusing in the region, particularly for e-commerce shipments. The route allows the HKAC to provide flexible, tailored charter solutions for shippers. The HKAC has increased its presence in Europe since 2023. Important additions include Milan Malpensa, Liege, Oslo, and several UK airports such as London Stansted, Birmingham, Glasgow Prestwick, and East Midlands.



This expansion strengthens its capability to connect Asia with European markets. The airline operates a fleet of five Airbus A330-200Fs.



# Movements



## DP WORLD UAE

Essa Kazim has been appointed Chairman, DP World. With decades of experience in fiscal and economic leadership, he serves as Governor, Dubai International Financial Centre and Chairman, Borse Dubai. Earlier, he roles at Dubai Dept of Economic Development and Dubai Financial Market, where he shaped the emirate's financial ecosystem.



Yuvraj Narayan has joined as Group Chief Executive Officer, DP World. In his new role, he will drive sustainable growth, expand DP World's integrated end-to-end supply chain solutions, and strengthen role in supporting global trade and logistics connection. Narayan previously served as the Group Chief Financial Officer, where he led major initiatives that enhanced the company's financial resilience and efficiency.



## MAERSK IMEA

Charles van der Steene has been appointed Regional Managing Director for the Indian Subcontinent, Middle East and Africa (IMEA). Steene will oversee the company's growth and direction across the IMEA region, integrated logistics capabilities, and advancing the company's market leadership across this territory.



## AIA CARGO United Kingdom

Sarah Macfarlane has been appointed Chief Executive, Airbridge International Agencies. She returned to the company in 2025 as VP, Cargo Sales and Services, overseeing several of AIA's key markets. Earlier, Macfarlane spent a decade with AIA as UK Sales Manager before serving as Commercial Director at APG Cargo in 2024.



## GENERAL MOTORS Africa & Middle East

Azam Akhtar has joined as CFO, General Motors, Africa and Gulf. In his new role, he will lead the region's finance strategy for sustainable growth, financial strength, and GM's transformation across Africa and the Middle East. His 10 years in GM was in fields, such as international product programmes and advanced vehicle development.



Monica Barten has been appointed the Head, Communications, General Motors Africa and Middle East. In her new role, Barten will be responsible to lead the regional communications strategy, enhance corporate and brand reputation, and align the communication efforts with business priorities of the General Motors' Prior to her new responsibility, Barte also worked for three years in the United Kingdom government.



## ARAMEX Dubai

Abbas Panju has been appointed SVP, GCC and India, Aramex. He brings logistics expertise across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Throughout his career, Panju has led several teams through complex geopolitical and economic environments, building resilient supply chains by de-risking and nearshoring strategies among others.



## OMAN AIR CARGO Dubai

Gokul Sudamani has been appointed Regional Head, Sales for the Middle East, Oman Air Cargo. In his new role, he will focus on fortifying relationships with forwarders, expanding regional offerings, and support the carrier's ongoing network and capacity growth. His appointment aligns with the launch of new routes — Singapore and Kigali.

# 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.

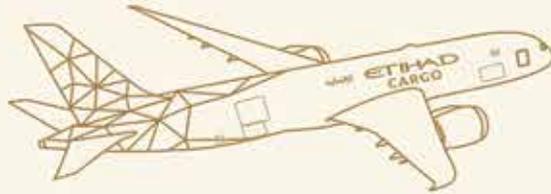
SolitAir is the only scheduled cargo carrier, which allows 'first mile' and 'last mile' operators to function with a supremely more efficient timetable, scalable according to customer need.

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.





# Celebrating The Women Of Cargo This March

