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September 2025

CARGO talk

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in UAE, GCC



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www.247azimi.com



Dubai , UAE



kbl@247azimi.com



www.cargotalkgcc.com

PUBLISHER

Sanjeet: sanjeet@sanjeet.ae

EDITORIAL TEAM

Devika Jeet

devika@ddppl.com

Nisha Verma

nisha.verma@ddppl.com

Dr. Shehara Fernando

shehara@ddppl.com

Ritika Arora Bhola

ritika.arora@ddppl.com

DESK EDITOR

WN Murthi: wn.murthi@ddppl.com

ADVERTISING TEAM

Crisna De Guzman: crisna@ddppl.com

Sonia Butalia: sonia.butalia@ddppl.com

Rajith Fernando: rajith@ddppl.com

Mobile: +971 529208684

Angelito Villeza: angelito@ddppl.com

MARKETING SERVICES

Jaspreet Kaur: jaspreet.kaur@ddppl.com

DESIGN

Nityanand Misra

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: uae@ddppl.com

CARGO talk Middle East is printed on behalf of

Durga Das Publications (Middle East) FZC

at Modest Print Pack Pvt. Ltd.,

C-52, DDA Sheds Okhla Industrial Area,

Phase-I, New Delhi-110020

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CROSS-BORDER LOGISTICS?

The Middle East
has it covered





The Gulf region is transforming cross-border logistics with its economic diversification and infrastructure development. Govt support and implementation of many schemes and e-commerce have made the region a gateway to global trade. From ports, rail networks and smart customs solutions, the Gulf has become a hub for smooth cargo operations.



Dr Shehara Fernando

Investment in infrastructure development in the region with initiatives such as the railway project across the region, expansion of Jebel Ali port, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's development of logistics hubs, prominence of the logistics free zones in the Kingdom of Bahrain and Sultanate of Oman are redefining the efficiency of cross-border logistics.

Digitalisation of trade documents, supply chain visibility and AI-driven demand forecasting, among others are being tested and implemented across the region. These initiatives will streamline air cargo handling, reduce bottlenecks and lower the cost of trade. Both government and private sector players, invest-

Digitalisation of trade documents, supply chain visibility and AI-driven demand forecasting, among others, are being tested and implemented across the region

ing in data-driven logistics platforms, not only optimise freight movement but also increase transparency and compliance across borders.

While the recent political instability in parts of the region did impact seamless cross-border trade, the Middle East has always been one of the most resilient regions in the world and managed to recover in no time. However, regional collaboration, such as unified customs initiatives to trade agreements will enable a coherent and resilient logistics ecosystem. This will make looking ahead more positive in future.

E-commerce is the name of the game as it has fuelled the need for agile logistics networks. Due to the rising consumer demand for faster delivery and the expansion of online retail into secondary cities, cross-border logistics providers are adapting last-mile solutions and forming strategic partnerships to meet evolving expectations.

Currently, the Middle East's cross border logistics landscape is poised for smart, sustainable growth. Each country has embraced innovation and cooperation, which makes for enhanced global trade while laying the foundation for a future where borders are no longer barriers but bridges to economic prosperity.



AT A GLANCE

- ❖ 92% of logistics players highlight technology as the backbone of border efficiency
- ❖ ERP and real-time tracking cut delays across borders
- ❖ AI & Data Tools increasingly used to optimise routes

Working to limit border restrictions

The logistics sector experiences changes through emerging trade routes and digital customs ops along with regional unification. ATS Shipping observes increasing requirements for fast technological solutions that target the UAE-KSA-Oman trade



Rizwan Kareem
Director, Air Freight
operations, ATS Shipping

“Technology functions as core operational framework enabling a fast-paced competitive market.”

corridor. Technology functions as core operational framework enabling a fast-paced competitive market.

E-commerce shaping digitalisation of trade

The future of cross-border logistics in the Middle East is being shaped by growing e-commerce, regional integration and increasing digitalisation of trade. The governments are streamlining customs procedures and investing in smart infrastructure, while businesses seek faster supply chains. At RSA Global, we anticipate a shift toward regional distribution hubs, data-driven logistics planning and sustainable practices across the GCC.



Abhishek Ajay Shah
Co-founder and Group CEO
RSA Global

“The governments are streamlining customs procedures and investing in infra, while businesses seek faster supply chains.”

Cross-border logistics shaped by technology

The future of the Middle East's cross-border logistics will be shaped by technology, regional integration and sustainability, with Gulf nations leading innovation. Companies investing in digital tools, partnerships with local players and green logistics will



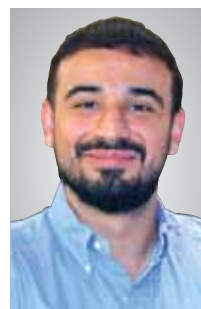
Prashanth Balakrishnan
General Manager
Orient Cargo

“Firms investing in digital tools, partnerships with local players and green logistics will gain a competitive edge.”

gain a competitive edge. At Orient Cargo, we integrate technology solutions to optimise cross-border operations.

Investment in infra for faster supply chains

The future of cross-border logistics in the Middle East is being shaped by increasing trade integration, digital customs systems and growing demand for faster, more transparent supply chains. I foresee continued investment in infra and



Yousif Najim
CEO
Orbit Logistics

“I foresee continued investment in infra and regional cooperation to enhance connectivity and efficiency.”

regional cooperation to enhance connectivity and efficiency. At Orbit Logistics, we leverage real-time tracking and digital documentation to minimise delays.



Single-window for faster clearance

The future of cross-border logistics in the Middle East will be shaped by increasing digitalisation, regulatory alignment and regional trade growth. I anticipate wider adoption of electronic customs systems, paperless trade and single-window clearance to reduce border bottlenecks. Collaboration between governments, logistics providers and technology platforms will redefine the speed and transparency of cross-border trade.



Pascale Matta
Branch Manager-Dubai
Compass Logistics

“Alliance between govts, logistics providers and tech platforms will redefine the speed of cross-border trade.”



Transforming the **logistics** landscape in the Middle East

The Middle East has been developing its infra over the past few years to ensure its position as a hub in air cargo and logistics. Govts across the UAE, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait are prioritising diversification and trade facilitation as part of their economic vision, which is helping the region redefine its role as a global logistics hub.

 Dr Shehara Fernando

Mega projects such as expansion of Al Maktoum International Airport in the UAE, King Salman International Airport, Etihad Rail, linking the GCC within the next few years and Oman's Duqm Port and free zone are scaling up capacity and enabling seamless integration between air, sea and land freight networks.

The impact of these projects has an extensive reach, which would bring about not

only changes but a surge in air cargo and the logistics sector. These initiatives — backed by investments in digitalisation to enhance cold chain facilities, reduce transit times and advance customs clearance systems — are attracting global manufacturers, e-commerce giants and exporters to base their distribution operations in the GCC region.

The surge in air cargo and logistics across the region will solidify the region's status as a bridge between

Asia, Europe and Africa, while fostering new trade corridors and boosting intra-regional commerce. The integration of sustainability focused innovations — from electric ground handling equipment to biofuel powered flights — positions the GCC as a frontrunner in aligning logistics growth with environmental responsibility. Over the next decade, these projects will enhance the the region's competitiveness, create high value jobs, stimulate more private investments and support resilient supply chains

AT A GLANCE

❖ DHL Group invests €500 mn in Middle East logistics

❖ Fujairah hub offers single-window documentation

❖ Fast & Compass adopt predictive analytics, automation

capable of withstanding any international disruptions.



Cost efficiency through AI-driven planning

At DHL Global Forwarding, we accelerate cargo turnaround and cost efficiency through AI-driven route planning, predictive analytics and myDHLi. We are adopters of future technologies, for example, we are piloting a hydrogen-powered truck in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to explore low-emission long-haul solutions. DHL Group recently announced a €500 million investment into the Middle East to enhance regional infra.



Amadou Diallo
CEO, Middle East & Africa
DHL Global Forwarding

“We are adopters of future tech. We are piloting a hydrogen-powered truck in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”

Single coordinated system for handling

We set out to make air cargo faster, simpler and more reliable at Fujairah International Airport. The result is our Integrated Cargo Facilitation Hub, a single coordinated system bringing air cargo handling, customs clearance and door-to-door delivery



Mark Govender
Business Development
Manager, Fujairah
International Airport

“Earlier, shipments often moved through separate stages — handling, inspection and paperwork.”

in one process. In the past, cargo shipments frequently moved through separate stages — handling, inspection and paperwork — with delays at every step.

Fast cargo movement speeds up deliveries

At Compass Logistics International, we are embracing innovation to make logistics smarter and faster. Our projects focus on digital transformation — using AI route optimisation and automated handling systems to speed up cargo movement. The result? Quicker deliveries and cost savings for our clients. We know logistics is evolving, so we are future-proofing our ops by investing in scalable infra.



Mohammed Nawaz
Project Manager
Compass Logistics

“Our projects focus on digital transformation, using AI route optimisation and automated handling.”



Streamlining delays to optimise efficiency

At Fast Logistics, our new projects are designed to deliver faster cargo TATs, smarter route planning and cost-effective ops. We are implementing AI scheduling tools, real-time visibility platforms and predictive analytics to improve accuracy and reduce dwell time at airports and transit hubs. By developing regional consolidation centres and bonded warehousing solutions, we streamline customs and reduce delays."



Abid Hamza
GM, Business Development, Fast Logistics Cargo, FZCO

“By developing regional consolidation centres and warehousing solutions, we streamline customs and cut delays”

Automated sorting for faster turnaround

Our new projects are designed to create value across key areas, which are for faster cargo turnaround. We have also implemented a new automated sorting system. This system uses ML to forecast and pre-sort inbound cargo based on its destination. Better



Marc Prasad
Regional Vice President, Global Network Development & Special Projects, ALSI GLOBAL LLC

“We have implemented a new automated sorting system. This system uses ML to forecast and pre-sort inbound cargo.”

route planning: our AI logistics software is a game changer for route planning. It analyses traffic data, weather patterns and delivery windows.”

Reducing TAT helps minimise delays

By working closely with cargo handling agents and optimising route planning, we have been able to cut turnaround times and minimise delays. Enhanced tracking tools and improved capacity utilisation help us move shipments more quickly and in a cost-effective manner. Streamlined documentation processes and stronger ties with GHAs ensure seamless cargo movement from origin to destination.”



AS Farhan
AGM Freight & Logistics Al Rais Cargo

“Enhanced tracking tools and capacity utilisation help us move shipments quickly and in a cost-effective manner.”



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.



Data-sharing gets smarter with IATA's **ONE Record**

The cargo industry is undergoing a digital transformation and at the heart of it is IATA's ONE Record initiative, aimed at replacing fragmented legacy systems with a unified, digital data-sharing model. Rather than exchanging messages between parties, ONE Record introduces a standardised record of a shipment accessible through modern APIs.

 CT Bureau

This shift holds the promise of higher-efficiency operations, real-time visibility and intelligent supply chains. But as

As with any digital transformation, the need for secure, reliable data exchange is of utmost importance

with any digital transformation, the need for secure, reliable data exchange is of utmost importance.

Recognising this, IATA has embedded a multi-layered security framework within ONE Record's design. The approach focuses on three key areas — authentication, authorisation and data protection. These mechanisms ensure only verified parties can access the system, control who sees what data and maintain the confidentiality and integrity of information, while it moves across networks. Crucially, the framework also supports a decentralised model. Instead of relying on a single authority to manage data flow, control stays with individual stakeholders. This preserves data ownership, while enabling collaboration, thereby

cially, the framework also supports a decentralised model. Instead of relying on a single authority to manage data flow,

control stays with individual stakeholders. This preserves data ownership, while enabling collaboration, thereby

Takeaways

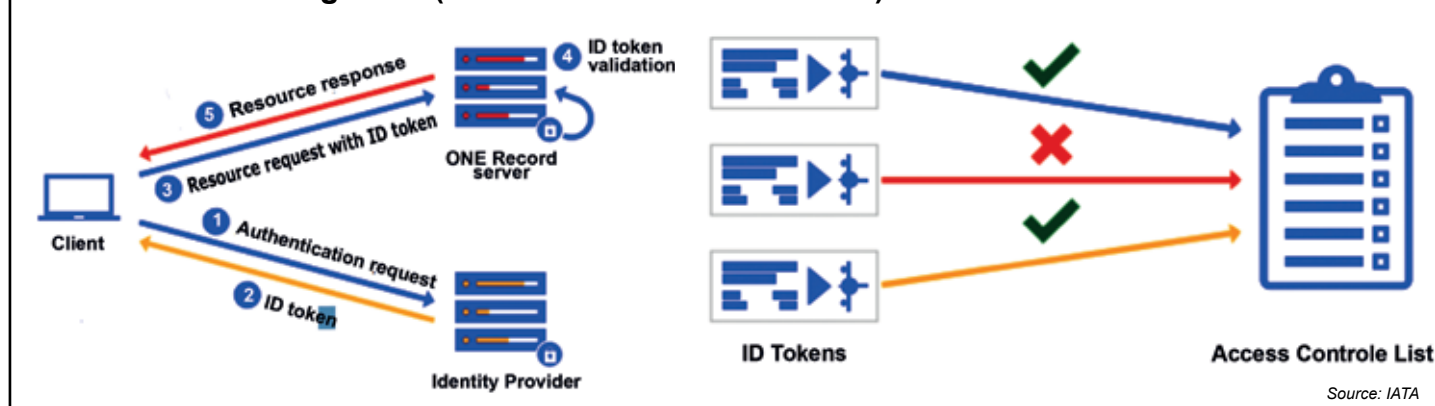
- IATA ONE Record enables fast digital data sharing
- Replaces outdated point-to-point systems, such as EDI
- Promotes transparency and real-time visibility
- Focuses on security, efficiency and innovation

Highlights

- A single digital record per shipment
- Built on modern API standards
- Decentralised data control
- Authentication and authorisation protocols in place



Secure Access Management (Authentication & Authorization)



creating an essential balance in today's competitive logistics environment. For senior decision-makers considering adoption, understanding this

security model is critical. It is not simply about safeguarding information; it is about creating a digital infrastructure that partners can trust. The success

of ONE Record will depend on how confident businesses feel in sharing data across the chain, and this framework lays the groundwork for that

trust. With the right implementation and industry-wide buy-in, IATA's ONE Record could redefine how air cargo moves digitally. 🚀

The air cargo body has embedded a multi-layered security framework within ONE Record's design



SriLankan Cargo, Freightos WebCargo start digital bookings

SriLankan Cargo has taken a significant step in its digital transformation by joining WebCargo by Freightos. With more than 10,000 freight forwarding offices on the platform, SriLankan Cargo aims to widen its international customer base and strengthen its presence across important global markets.

CT Bureau

This integration will allow freight forwarders across the globe to directly access SriLankan Cargo's real-time rates, cargo capacity and booking options through a single digital interface. The move enhances visibility during the critical procurement stage, making the airline's services accessible and easier to book.

"By joining Freightos' WebCargo platform, we are not just digitalising our booking process — we are expanding our reach to thousands of new potential customers," said Chaminda Pereira, Head, Cargo,

SriLankan Airlines. "The integration with Freightos' rate management and procurement tools ensures our services are visible at the critical decision-making stage of the freight buying process."

Zvi Schreiber, CEO, Freightos welcomed the addition of SriLankan Cargo to the network, calling it a timely move that adds the much-needed regional capacity. "SriLankan Cargo brings high-quality regional capacity into our digital network at a time when agility is key," he said. "By integrating their rates and capacity, forwarders gain instant and enhanced access to critical South Asian trade lanes, including Colombo and India."

A key advantage of the tie-up is the inclusion of WebCargo Pay, which gives non-IATA forwarders the ability to book space without the need for bank guarantees or airline credit lines, particularly in emerging markets. This levels the playing field for smaller logistics firms, expanding



Chaminda Pereira
Head, Cargo
SriLankan Airlines



Zvi Schreiber
CEO
Freightos

"We are not just digitalising our booking process — we are expanding our reach to thousands of new potential customers."

"By integrating their rates and capacity, forwarders gain instant and enhanced access to critical South Asian trade lanes."

participation across Asia. SriLankan Cargo services multiple regions, including the Middle East, Europe, Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent, with Colombo acting as a central consoli-

dation hub. The airline will also benefit from Freightos' interlining capabilities, enabling flexible multicarrier bookings and supporting stronger load optimisation with partner airlines. 🇸🇰

FAST FACTS

Partner
WebCargo by Freightos

Reach
Over 10,000 forwarders globally

Key benefits
Real-time booking, quotes and payment access

Feature highlight
WebCargo Pay for non-IATA forwarders

Focus regions
Middle East, South Asia, Europe, Southeast Asia

Added value
Multicarrier booking via interlining capabilities



Dubai's Mina Al Hamriya set for next phase of growth

DP World outlined the port's growing role in enhancing regional trade. The Mina Al Hamriya port will be transformed into a gateway to accelerate flow of goods and drive innovation and opportunity, says His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

CT Bureau

DP World has announced a new expansion plan to transform Mina Al Hamriya port. Located in Deira, the port will see the construction of a 700-metre quay with a 12-metre draft, enabling it to accommodate larger vessels and expand its cargo-handling capabilities. Imports are expected to reach one million head of cattle this year.

This development follows the port's 2024 upgrade, which added 1,150 metres of quay wall and increased berth capacity. The latest project was approved by His High-

ness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, during an inspection visit to the site.

DP World outlined the port's growing role in enhancing regional trade, especially in perishables and livestock. The facility, which served wooden *dhow*s, handles a diverse mix of cargo, including steel vessels, break-bulk, RoRo, containers and food commodities.

"We are transforming our ports into dynamic gateways that connect the world and accelerate the flow of goods and drive innovation and op-



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai



Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem
Group Chairman and CEO
DP World

“We want Dubai to be the first choice for traders, the trusted route for commerce and a hub in the world's supply chains.”

portunity. Our goal is not just to compete, but to lead global trade with a transformative vision and new standards. We want Dubai to be the first choice for traders, the trusted route for commerce and the dynamic hub in the world's

“DP World is committed to investing in the Mina Al Hamriya port's growth, while preserving its rich maritime heritage.”

supply chains,” observed His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The port recorded trade worth \$9.07 billion in the first half of 2025 and saw an 11 per cent increase in vessel calls compared to the same period in 2024. The expansion and storage space will double from 3.4 million to 6.4 million square feet, reflecting rising demand and Dubai's ambitions in trade growth.

“The port has been a vital part of the trade sector of Dubai for decades, and we are committed to investing in its growth to preserve its rich maritime heritage,” said Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO, DP World. 🇦🇪

Highlights

- DP World to build 700m quay with 12m draft at Mina Al Hamriya port
- Storage capacity nearly doubles to 6.4 million sqft
- Trade value hits \$9.07 billion in H1 2025
- 11% rise in vessel calls reflects growing demand

Significance

- Strengthens Dubai's position as a regional maritime hub
- Balances modern logistics with preservation of maritime heritage
- Aligns with UAE's national economic vision and trade growth ambitions





Emirates SkyCargo embraces digital payments with PayCargo

Emirates SkyCargo's partnership with PayCargo ensures that the carrier is at the forefront of digital evolution, providing faster and more secure transactions to customers and solving industry-wide challenges of accessing air freight capacity, says **Badr Abbas, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo**.

 CT Bureau

Emirates SkyCargo has become the first carrier in the region to adopt PayCargo's digital logistics payment solution, marking a key milestone in the UAE's transition toward smarter, more efficient air cargo operations and payments. The launch of PayCargo in the Emirates represents a step forward in digitising the region's air freight landscape.

With a focus on eliminating inefficiencies of traditional payment systems, which are still prevalent in the air cargo and logistics industry, the carrier's integration with PayCargo enables freight forwarders and stakeholders to make secure and safe online payments

by either credit card or direct debit. This allows for faster

cargo release, often on the same day or by the next day,

streamlining processes and improving service delivery.





Badr Abbas
Divisional Senior, Vice President
EmiratesSkyCargo



Eduardo Del Riego
President and CEO
PayCargo

Authority & Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airlines & Group and Chairman, Dubai Airports.

“We are thrilled to launch in the UAE with Emirates SkyCargo as our first regional partner. This solution will help streamline payment process and save the customers’ valuable time,” said Eduardo Del Riego, President and Chief Executive Officer, PayCargo.

“Our partnership with PayCargo ensures that the carrier provides faster, more secure transactions for the customers.”

streamlining processes for our internal teams and solving industry-wide challenges of accessing air freight capacity,” said, Badr Abbas, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo. PayCargo’s official entry into the UAE signals a paradigm shift away from cash and manual processing, offering faster, more

“PayCargo’s digital payments solution will help streamline payments and save the customers’ valuable time.”

secure transactions in a market that is fast becoming an international logistics nerve centre.

The service’s launch builds on the 2022 alliance between PayCargo and Seed Group, part of the private office of His Highness Sheikh Saeed bin Ahmed Al Maktoum, President, Dubai Civil Aviation

AT A GLANCE

- ❖ PayCargo eliminates manual and cash-based transactions
- ❖ Enables same-day or next-day cargo release
- ❖ Enhances operational efficiency for freight forwarders and logistics stakeholders
- ❖ Advances the UAE’s vision to become a digitally-powered logistics hub





Ethiopian Airlines banks on UAE to strengthen AME cargo links

Yamrot Nigussie, Regional Manager (Cargo), Gulf Region, Ethiopian Airlines, said in an exclusive interview that the UAE plays an important role in the airline's cargo network, the rise of e-commerce and the carrier's commitment to offering direct, point-to-point services to key African destinations.

CT Bureau

How important is the UAE for Ethiopian's freight operations?

The UAE is one of the most significant destinations for Ethiopian Cargo. We currently operate from three airports: Al Maktoum, Dubai International and Sharjah.

Among these, Al Maktoum International Airport and Sharjah are central to our cargo operations. From Al Maktoum International Airport, we operate two weekly Boeing 77F freighters. From Sharjah airport, we have ramped up operations to over eight frequencies using Boeing 767E, including 777F and 737E.

Sharjah airport serves as a gateway to several major African destinations — we fly to Nigeria four times a week using the 767, which offers a 45-tonne capacity. We operate weekly ser-



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

vices to Chad, Eldoret (Kenya) and Hargeisa and Mogadishu (Somalia), including other African network destinations via ADD.

What about belly cargo operations?

From Dubai airport, we operate three wide-body passenger flights daily, each carrying about 20 tonnes of cargo shipments. That adds up to a cargo capacity of as much as 60 tonnes of cargo shipments.

“*This reflects our vision to place Abu Dhabi as a partner in global health where innovation translates into measurable impact.”*

Do you see fresh produce coming in from Africa given its growing role as a significant supplier to the UAE and Middle East?

Yes, the majority of inbound air cargo from Africa consists of perishables such as flowers, meat, vegetables and fruits, among others. Outbound cargo to Africa, on the other hand, is primarily electronics and general freight. Our focus for this year and beyond is on expanding our offerings in pharmaceutical products and e-commerce shipments.

How do you work with agents to ensure a seamless experience?

We have no issues with processes, as our system operates seamlessly. The benefit we give to customers and agents here is our prime product, which is point-to-point operations out of Sharjah.

KEY FACTS

❖ With multiple operational hubs — including Sharjah, DWC and DXB — the UAE enables Ethiopian Airlines to offer high-frequency, point-to-point cargo services directly into key African markets.

❖ This setup reduces transit times, avoids congestion, supports demand for perishables.



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RAK Chamber, Kyrgyzstan explore deeper trade ties

The RAK Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan proposed forming a joint working group to coordinate future meetings, workshops and networking opportunities for investors and private stakeholders from both countries. The goal is to improve the flow of information on investment opportunities and identify sectors for collaboration.

CT Bureau

The Ras Al Khaimah Chamber of Commerce and Industry is looking to expand trade and investment ties with the Republic of Kyrgyzstan following a high-level diplomatic visit aimed at strengthening bilateral economic cooperation. Discussions focused on creating new trade linkages and enhancing investment flows to support sustainable economic growth.

The high-level meeting, held at the chamber's HQ, brought together Mohamed Musabbeh Al Nuaimi, Chairman, RAK Chamber, and His Excellency Saliev Aman Akylbekovich, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to the UAE.

Both sides acknowledged the evolving relationship



Mohamed Musabbeh Al Nuaimi
Chairman
RAK Chamber



His Excellency Saliev Aman Akylbekovich
Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan
to the UAE

ties for investors and private sector stakeholders from both countries. The goal is to improve the flow of information on investment opportunities and identify priority sectors for collaboration.

Al Nuaimi extended an invitation to Kyrgyz businesses to take part in exhibitions and commercial events organised by the Chamber and the Saud Bin Saqr Establishment, further encouraging cross-border engagement.

His Excellency Saliev Aman Akylbekovich, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to the UAE, said, "Kyrgyzstan has strong interest in strengthening cooperation with the UAE in general and with the Emirate of RAK in particular to enhance the growing partnership between them." With both parties aligned on strengthening commercial relations, the meeting is expected to pave the way for expanded trade between RAK and Kyrgyzstan, promoting regional integration and investment-driven growth.

“The bilateral ties between the UAE and Kyrgyzstan have witnessed remarkable development across various sectors.”

“Kyrgyzstan is interested in strengthening cooperation with the UAE and the Emirate of RAK in particular.”

between the UAE and Kyrgyzstan, especially in the areas of trade. “The bilateral relations between the UAE and Kyrgyzstan have witnessed remarkable development across various sectors, particularly in the economic, trade and investment fields,” Mohamed Musabbeh Al Nuaimi, Chairman, RAK Chamber, said.

He noted that the growing number of official engagements between the two nations reflects the commitment of their leadership to advancing mutual economic interests.

To facilitate tangible outcomes, the two parties proposed constituting a joint working group to coordinate future meetings, workshops and networking opportuni-



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4 freighter flights weekly from
Sharjah and Dubai World Central

SCAN TO SHIP



RwandAir CARGO

TACT cargo solutions drive smart cargo operations

Arnaud Meunier, Product Manager, TACT Air Cargo Solutions, IATA, elaborates on how the platform is transforming air cargo operations with real-time data, Artificial Intelligence-driven tools and seamless regulatory compliance to boost efficiency and security across the air cargo and logistics industry.

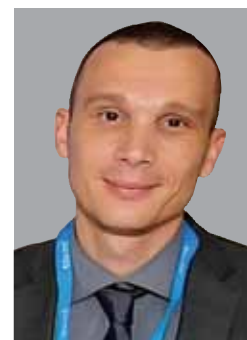
CT Bureau

What is the core function of TACT Air Cargo Solutions?

TACT solutions provide digital solutions that deliver real-time air cargo content. These solutions help airlines, freight forwarders and stakeholders execute cargo shipments efficiently, safely and in compliance with government, industry and airline rules and regulations.

What types of real-time air cargo information does TACT offer?

TACT solutions provide real-time air cargo information about detailed air cargo tariffs and rates, enabling accurate pricing and cost management. The platform facilitates air cargo quotes and bookings, streamlining the shipment process. Users gain access to up-to-date airline and country regulations ensuring compliance with diverse global needs. TACT



Arnaud Meunier
Product Manager
TACT Air Cargo Solutions, IATA

also offers insights into industry standards to maintain best practices and current cargo schedules for effective planning. To support secure and lawful trade, the platform provides information on denied parties, sanctions and trade compliance, helping businesses navigate complex regulatory climate.

What are the key features of TACT Online?

TACT Online offers quoting and booking cargo shipments, tracking CO₂ emissions via Co2Connect, providing pricing guidance through CargoIS, sharing AWB data with CASSLink and enabling IATA customer portal login.

How does TACT Online Multilingual enhance the platform and what is the purpose of TACT Rules API?

TACT Online Multilingual transforms the TACT Online platform into a multilingual solution, allowing it to support global markets

and better serve customers worldwide. TACT Rules API integrates airline and country regulations directly with customers — ensuring regulatory compliance is seamlessly managed.

What benefits does the TACT AI agent bring to cargo shipments? What does TACT Autocheck do to support it?

The TACT AI agent uses AI capabilities to boost customer experience and processing of air cargo shipments — making operations smarter and

“Users gain access to up-to-date airline and country regulations ensuring compliance with diverse global needs.”

more efficient. TACT Autocheck enables fully automated shipment checks using limited memory AI — thereby accelerating shipment processing and reducing risks of non-compliance. 🚀



Keeta to reshape **last-mile delivery** in UAE through FVP

With no setup fees and subscription costs, Keeta, which reflects the evolving expectations of logistics in the region, removes traditional entry barriers. The initiative offers exposure in the upcoming national campaigns and access to real-time customer traffic, aligning logistics capabilities with marketing firepower.



CT Bureau

Keeta, the global arm of Chinese delivery giant Meituan, launched Founding Vendor Programme (FVP) in the UAE, taking a step into the region's competitive logistics and last-mile delivery sector. With Meituan's infrastructure supporting 150 million daily orders, the company will bring a tested, high-capacity model to meet the growing demands of dynamic markets, such as the UAE.

From a logistics perspective, the programme aims to simplify onboarding for early restaurant and retail partners. With no setup fees and subscription costs, Keeta removes traditional entry barriers, enabling merchants to join the platform with-

out upfront investment. The offer includes algorithm-driven in-app traffic, which democratises visibility and customer reach, a departure from pay-to-play models used by many competitors.

"The UAE stands at the crossroads of digital innovation and entrepreneurial opportunity," said Cynthia Chen, GM, Keeta UAE.

Previously, the company made headlines by piloting drone deliveries in Dubai, underlining its focus on last-mile innovation and operational efficiency. The new programme builds that momentum, combining cutting-edge delivery solutions with merchant-first infrastructure to support demand generation and scalable growth.

The initiative offers exposure to upcoming national campaigns and access to real-time customer traffic, aligning logistics capabilities with marketing firepower. This approach is designed to strengthen fulfilment efficiency, while maximising consumer engagement, a critical factor in the success of any delivery platform.

Keeta's entry reflects the evolving expectations of logistics in the region. With e-commerce and food delivery surging, platforms must provide speed, adaptability and sustainability. By offering local businesses access to global best practices and digital tools, Keeta is positioning itself as an emerging logistics partner focused on long-term value. 🚀

Benefits

- Priority exposure in national launch campaigns
- Free access to in-app traffic
- Gears up for shift in delivery logistics

Objectives

- Expectations of logistics in the region
- Strengthen last-mile delivery and onboarding
- Meituan's infra supporting 150 million daily orders

talabat mart opens MENA's Q-commerce hub in Egypt

talabat mart has inaugurated the region's largest distribution centre dedicated to the quick commerce (Q-commerce) sector. The facility will create 500 direct jobs and thousands more through indirect employment opportunities. This will strengthen talabat mart's ability to build a more reliable supply chain in Egypt.

CT Bureau

Located in YANMU East Logistics Park along the Cairo-Suez Road, the 22,405 sqm facility is designed as a sustainable logistics hub. It was developed by Hassan Allam Utilities, AP Moller Capital, and Agility to support talabat's ops in Egypt and beyond.

Equipped with advanced technologies, including prod-

uct picking towers, radio shuttle systems and selective racking, the hub is built for scalability and speed. It can process up to 1.6 million items per day and over 48 million items monthly, supporting more than 60 dark stores by the end of 2025.

"Expanding our storage capacity and modernising our logistics operations will enable us to improve product availability, speed up delivery



Karim Hefzy, COO, Hassan Allam Utilities and Mohamed Sekkina, General Manager, talabat mart Egypt

Highlights

- MENA's largest Q-commerce distribution centre spans 22,405 sqm
- Facility can handle up to 1.6 million items/day and 48 million/month
- Equipped with smart picking towers, radio shuttles & selective racking
- Certified by EDGE for sustainability

Impact

- Improves product availability and speeds up delivery timelines
- Supports 60 dark stores by this year-end
- Generates over 500 jobs directly and thousands indirectly
- Enhances last-mile delivery efficiency in Egypt and beyond

times and provide a smooth and reliable experience for our customers. We are also proud to create 500 direct job opportunities and thousands of indirect ones through our partner network, supporting the local economy and reflecting our ongoing commitment to sustainable development," commented Mohamed Sekki-

na, General Manager, talabat mart Egypt.

The facility is expected to generate 500 direct and thousands of indirect job opportunities, in line with talabat's long-term commitment to Egypt's economic development. "We welcome talabat mart to the YANMU East Logistics Park for establishment of its largest distribution centre in the MENA region," Karim Hefzy, COO, Hassan Allam Utilities, said.

With a focus on food safety and employee welfare, the centre incorporates real-time monitoring, sanitation standards and mandatory staff training. Wellness zones, rest areas, and hygiene protocols are embedded into the operational fabric. This facility positions talabat mart to enhance supply chain resilience, meet rising demand across Egypt and MENA and strengthen its delivery capabilities in the evolving Q-commerce landscape. 🚚



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Abu Dhabi's regional vaccine hub to fortify healthcare

Her Excellency Dr Noura Khamis Al Ghaithi, Undersecretary, Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, says the regional vaccine hub, which is the first such distribution centre in the Middle East, will primarily distribute more than 20 vaccines. The vaccine hub, which is situated in KAFED, will increase future vaccines in line with the demand.

CT Bureau

The Department of Health–Abu Dhabi (DoH) has launched the region's new vaccine distribution hub, positioning the Emirate as a supply chain partner in global health.

Developed in collaboration with local and global stakeholders, including GSK, AD Ports Group, Etihad Cargo, ADIO and KEZAD Group, the vaccine hub ensures timely and secure delivery of vaccines across the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. It integrates advanced cold-chain and smart distribution technologies, preserving vaccine integrity with real-time monitoring and seamless logistics visibility.

Located in KEZAD and operated by Rafed (a Pure-Health subsidiary), the facility is a milestone in Abu Dhabi's push to become a hub for life sciences and pharmaceutical logistics.

The hub's operational readiness follows an agreement signed between DoH and GSK during the 2024 Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week, establishing the facility as GSK's first vaccine distribution

centre in the Middle East and fourth globally. The site will manage more than 20 vaccines for paediatric and adult populations, with scalability to support future vaccines and increasing demand.





HE Dr Noura Khamis Al Ghaithi, Undersecretary
DOH-Abu Dhabi



Boyd Chongphaisal
Vice President and GM
GSK Gulf



Mohammad Mustafa Saeed
CEO
Rafed



Stanislas Brun
Chief Cargo Officer
Etihad Airways

“This reflects our vision to place Abu Dhabi as a partner in global health where innovation translates into measurable impact.”

“This reflects our vision to position Abu Dhabi as a partner in global health where innovation and resilience translate into timely access and measurable public health impact,” said Her Excellency Dr Noura Khamis Al Ghaithi, Undersecretary, DOH-Abu Dhabi.

As part of HELM, Abu Dhabi's flagship life sciences cluster, the hub accelerates the Emirate's position in the global value chain by supporting lifelong immunisation efforts and enhancing regional

“The integration of this hub under HELM shows GSK's stance and alignment with Abu Dhabi's vision for impactful outcome.”

supply chain resilience. It contributes to broader national goals around public health security and innovation-driven industry growth.

“The integration of this hub under HELM shows GSK's stance and alignment with Abu Dhabi's vision for driving impactful outcomes in the life sciences sector. This initiative is a testament to Abu Dhabi's position in the international value chain, strengthening its role in global health and innovation,” commented Boyd Chongphaisal,

“Rafed is committed to delivering healthcare excellence through world-class pharma logistics.”

Vice President and General Manager, GSK Gulf.

“As a PureHealth company, Rafed is committed to delivering healthcare excellence through world-class pharmaceutical logistics,” said Mohammad Mustafa Saeed, Chief Executive Officer, Rafed.

“Etihad Cargo's participation in this initiative reflects our continued investment in healthcare logistics,” said Stanislas Brun, Chief Cargo Officer, Etihad Airways.

“Etihad Cargo's participation in this initiative reflects our continued investment in healthcare logistics.”

Backed by Etihad Cargo's PharmaLife network, the facility connects Abu Dhabi to 100 international destinations and facilitates temperature-sensitive shipments. The hub is expected to distribute millions of doses annually, reducing delivery lead times and increasing access to life-saving vaccines.

With this launch, Abu Dhabi is demonstrating how cross-sector partnerships and investment in healthcare logistics can accelerate outcomes and build a resilient, responsive and future-ready health supply chain.





AIR ONE launches Europe–Dubai–Asia cargo link

AIR ONE carrier has announced the launch of scheduled Boeing 747-400 freighter operations to Dubai World Central, strengthening its footprint in the Middle East. The addition of the UAE city as a significant hub reflects the company's focus on high-growth freight markets across the GCC and Asia.

CT Bureau

The service is scheduled to commence on 2 September 2025, with four weekly flights operating from East Midlands Airport in the UK and Liege, Belgium, to Dubai and onward to Hong Kong. The operations will be managed by AIR ONE's affiliated British cargo airline and supported by a fleet of Boeing 747-400 freighters, including nose-loading aircraft.



Peter Scholten
Chief Commercial Officer
AIR ONE



Guneet Mirchandani
Executive Chairman
AIR ONE



Ingo Zimmer
CEO
ATC Aviation Services AG

Significance

- The freighter service to Dubai World Central starts on 2 September
- 4 weekly flights from East Midlands UK and Liege, Belgium
- Operated using Boeing 747-400 aircraft, including nose-loaders
- Dubai service is part of AIR ONE's expanded Asia–Middle East–Europe corridor

Highlights

- More than 3,750 full charters completed in five years
- Over 345,000 tonnes of cargo moved globally
- Fleet includes 11 Boeing 747-400 freighters, with plans to expand in 2025–2026
- Strengthens Dubai's position as a regional cargo hub

"This new scheduled service marks a strategic shift for the company. Launching scheduled cargo services is a new strategic step for AIR ONE and a natural extension and progression of our charter and wet lease operations," Peter Scholten, Chief Commercial Officer, AIR ONE.

The inclusion of Dubai in the route is expected to improve cargo connectivity between Europe, the Middle East and Asia. With a supporting road feeder network, the service offers extended reach into key regional air-

ports, enhancing cargo flow in and out of the UAE.

"The company sees potential in the cargo market. With the support of our in-house cargo team and our chosen airline, GSSA and handling partners, we see an opportunity to establish AIR ONE in the scheduled cargo market," Guneet Mirchandani, Executive Chairman, AIR ONE, said. "We are proud to represent this fast-growing freighter airline as its GSSA in European countries," remarked Ingo Zimmer, CEO of ATC Aviation Services AG. 🇦🇪

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AECOM, SILZ partner to advance integrated logistics in KSA

AECOM has announced a partnership with Special Integrated Logistics Zones (SILZ) Company. The collab is focused on accelerating the development of Riyadh Integrated, SILZ's flagship logistics zone. 8 km from King Khalid International Cargo Village, the Riyadh SILZ is envisioned as a high-capacity logistics hub with seamless multimodal connectivity.

CT Bureau

Riyadh Integrated goes beyond traditional warehousing. The zone will include a mix of pre-built and built-to-suit storage units, flexible land plots, administrative offices and display showrooms — all embedded within a digitally enabled framework. This positions the zone as an attractive node for international freight operators, 3PL and high-value cargo movement.

With access to major transport corridors, the site is being developed as a purpose-built ecosystem tailored to meet the demands of firms such as pharmaceuticals, ICT and aerospace.

The project aligns closely with Saudi Vision 2030 and its objectives of economic diversification and infrastructure-driven trade expansion. AECOM's role in the partnership is centred on ensuring that the zone delivers world-class operational readiness,



Hamed Zaghw
Chief Executive
Middle East and Africa, AECOM

“As SILZ alters the integrated logistics landscape in the KSA, we are proud to serve as their trusted advisor.”

supply chain efficiency and logistics infrastructure that cater to high-growth verticals. “As SILZ transforms the integrated logistics landscape



Dr. Fadi Al-Buhairan
CEO
SILZ Company

“This partnership with AECOM is vital for the company and for KSA's journey to become a logistics powerhouse.”

in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we are proud to serve as their trusted advisor, guiding vision into action and advancing an infrastructure strategy

supporting economic vitality and international investment,” said Hamed Zaghw, Chief Executive, Middle East and Africa, AECOM.

The agreement reflects a broader shift in the Kingdom's logistics approach — the transition from siloed transport activities to integrated, strategically located logistics ecosystems that enable end-to-end visibility, higher throughput and resilience across supply chains. “This partnership with AECOM marks a pivotal moment for the company and for KSA's journey to become a global integrated logistics powerhouse,” said Dr. Fadi Al-Buhairan, CEO, SILZ Company.

“We are proud to bring together our regional insight and global expertise to help shape the future of integrated logistics in the Kingdom,” added Jason Kroll, CEO, AECOM Arabia. “With this collaboration, AECOM brings its infrastructure expertise and regional freight dynamics,” he added.



Dubai South multi-user facilities to enhance logistics infra

Focusing on sustainability, the facilities will cater to logistics operators, trading firms and last-mile delivery providers. It aligns with Dubai South's ecosystem that includes EZDubai, an e-commerce zone and a bonded logistics corridor linked to Jebel Ali Port. All units are pre-equipped with temperature control, ensuring optimal conditions for various categories.

CT Bureau

Dubai South is transforming the region's logistics landscape with the launch of its new multi-user facilities in the heart of its Logistics District. The development spans over 215,000 sqft of built-up space



Mohsen Ahmad
CEO, Logistics District
Dubai South

“The launch of our new multi-user facilities highlights our commitment to supporting SMEs by providing infrastructure.”

that is designed to offer flexible infrastructure solutions to support growing demand from SMEs, freight forwarders and e-commerce players. The project is slated for a handover in Q1 2026.

Situated near Al Maktoum International Airport and in proximity to Jebel Ali Port, the facilities are positioned within Dubai South's freight forwarding zone, enabling



businesses to tap into convenient multi-modal connectivity. Tenants will also benefit from direct access to the UAE's key highway network, allowing for efficient cargo flow and reduced last-mile delivery times.

The project introduces a modular concept, offering units of 2,152 sqft and 3,767 sqft with the flexibility to combine spaces. All units are pre-equipped with temperature control, ensuring optimal conditions for various product categories. The facilities include ground-level access, on-site amenities, retail services and streamlining day-to-day operations for tenants.

“The launch of our new multi-user facilities highlights our commitment to supporting SMEs by providing state-of-the-art infrastructure that meets the evolving demands of regional and global markets. We strive to create an ecosystem that fosters SME

growth by offering tailored solutions, connectivity and a business-friendly environment,” informed Mohsen Ahmad, CEO, Logistics District, Dubai South.

With a focus on sustainability and ease of customisation, the offer caters to a diverse client base, ranging from logistics operators and trading firms to last-mile delivery providers. The development

aligns with Dubai South's broader ecosystem that includes EZDubai, a purpose-built e-commerce zone and a bonded logistics corridor linking directly to Jebel Ali Port.

As regional logistics demand continues to grow, Dubai South's latest infrastructure push marks another step toward strengthening Dubai's position as a key logistics hub.

Highlights

- New multi-user facilities span 215,278 sqft
- Modular, temperature-controlled units
- Strategic location near Al Maktoum International Airport and Jebel Ali Port
- Direct access to major UAE highways for smooth connectivity

Impact

- Improves operational efficiency for businesses through scalable infrastructure
- Enhances UAE's position as a key regional logistics hub
- Offers cost-effective, ready-to-move-in spaces
- Supports sustainability and custom-fit-outs for diverse industry needs

Four Winds earns SFDA nod for medical cold chain logistics

The company has reinforced its processes by adopting globally recognised protocols and regulatory frameworks. All warehouse operations adhere to WHO standards and staff undergo detailed SFDA-verified training in air cargo handling, hygiene and transport of temperature-sensitive cargo.

CT Bureau

Four Winds Saudi Arabia Limited has secured a license from the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), enabling the storage of medical devices and supplies at its newly developed cold chain logistics facility.



Nizar Al Mani
CEO
Four Winds

“Receiving this license is a responsibility. It pushes us to raise the bar on safety and compliance.”

This is a significant move that aligns with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's ambitions for a future-ready healthcare and logistics sector.

The 10,000 sqm facility, developed exclusively for Four Winds within its logistics hub, is a major addition to the Kingdom's temperature-controlled storage infrastructure. With this milestone, the company is now equipped to



serve clients handling sensitive medical and pharma cargo requiring consistent cold chain integrity.

“Receiving this license is a milestone, but more importantly, it is a responsibility. It pushes us to raise the bar on precision, safety and regulatory compliance in cold chain operations,” commented Nizar Al Mani, Chief Executive Officer, Four Winds.

The company has reinforced its processes by adopting globally recognised protocols and regulatory frameworks. All warehouse operations adhere to WHO standards and staff undergo extensive SFDA-verified training in handling, hygiene and transport of temperature-sensitive cargo.

Four Winds' fleet, fitted with real-time tracking and cooling tech, ensures end-to-end visibility and product integrity across the supply chain. This move strengthens the Kingdom's ability

The 10,000 sqm facility, developed for Four Winds, is a major addition to the Kingdom's temperature-controlled storage infra

to handle advanced pharmaceutical logistics, including organ transport, gene therapies and biologics, and supports the national healthcare strategy under Vision 2030, whose objective is to build resilient, tech-enabled supply chains across key sectors.

The company's expansion into medical cold chain logistics comes at a time when demand for temperature-controlled solutions is rising sharply, driven by advancements in medicine and regulatory scrutiny on pharmaceutical transport.

With more than four decades of experience and affiliations with IATA, FIATA and the International Association of Movers (IAM), the company is positioning itself as an enabler of secure and compliant logistics in the Kingdom and the wider region.

AT A GLANCE

- ❖ SFDA license granted to Four Winds for storing medical devices and supplies
- ❖ 10,000 sqm facility developed as part of its new cold chain logistics hub
- ❖ Supports Vision 2030 goals for healthcare resilience and supply chain transformation

GWC expands digital and energy logistics footprint

GWC plays a significant role in enabling Small and Medium Enterprises through its Al Wukair Logistics Park and is primed to support Qatar's mega projects, including the North Field Expansion, says **His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani, Chairman, GWC.**

CT Bureau

Gulf Warehousing Company (GWC) has reported a net profit of US\$ 17.4 million for the first half of 2025, alongside total revenues of US\$ 192.4 million. Earnings per share stood at US\$ 0.027 for the period ending 30 June 2025, reinforcing the company's position as a key player in Qatar's logistics and supply chain sector.

Positioning logistics as a central driver of Qatar's economic diversification, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani, Chairman, GWC, indicated the sector's importance in facilitating trade and supporting national development. He noted that GWC plays a significant role in enabling SMEs through its expansive Al Wukair Logistics Park and is primed to support Qatar's mega infrastructure projects. He said, "Logistics plays a vital role in facilitating the movement of goods and services and boosting domestic and international trade."

His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Fahad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani, Managing Director, highlighted GWC's



His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani
Chairman, GWC

“GWC plays a vital role in enabling SMEs through its Al Wukair Logistics Park and supports Qatar's mega infrastructure.”

commitment to strategic expansion and sustainable profitability. His Excellency Thani said, "The company continues to implement an expansion strategy based on a solid financial foundation and a diversified portfolio of investments across sectors and geographies."



His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Fahad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani
MD, GWC

“The firm implements an expansion strategy based on a financial foundation and a diversified investment portfolio.”

GWC's financial health was recognised by Capital Intelligence, which awarded the company its first-ever national credit ratings of 'qaA-' (long-term) and 'qaA2' (short-term) with a Stable outlook.

Pointing to the company's credit rating, Matthew



Matthew Kearns
Acting Group CEO
GWC

“The firm's credit rating reflects our strong market position and the resilience of our business model amid global challenges.”

Kearns, Acting Group CEO, GWC, said, "This recognition reflects our strong market position and the resilience of our business model amid global challenges." Kearns also reaffirmed the company's commitment to sustainability and innovation across all logistics functions.



Takeaways

- Net profit of US\$ 17.4 mn in H1 2025
- Revenues reached US\$ 192.4 mn
- EPS stood at US\$ 0.027
- Strong credit rating from Capital Intelligence

Innovations

- New Ras Laffan logistics hub launched
- Expanding digital logistics via Huawei deal
- Supporting SMEs through Al Wukair Park
- Focus on sustainability across operations

QR Group, Milaha to strengthen logistics supply chain resilience

Under the five-year agreement, Milaha will oversee a full suite of supply chain solutions from warehousing and inventory management to distribution support. The QR Group chose the former after a rigorous selection process that spotlighted the digital infrastructure of the logistics provider.

CT Bureau

Qatar Navigation (Milaha) has signed a five-year agreement with Qatar Airways Group (QR Group) to provide end-to-end warehousing and logistics services. The landmark partnership unites two of Qatar's most prominent entities, with a shared focus on operational excellence, technology-driven service delivery and national supply chain development.

Under the agreement, Milaha will oversee a full suite of supply chain solutions — from warehousing and inventory management to distribution support — all customised



Fahad bin Saad al-Qahtani
Group CEO
Milaha



Badr Mohammed al-Meer
Group CEO
Qatar Airways

proven ability to deliver reliable, customer-centric services at scale.

“We are honoured to be selected by QR Group as their logistics partner of choice. This agreement is built on mutual trust and a shared vision for service excellence. It affirms our position as an enabler of national connectivity and global competitiveness through reliable and efficient logistics solutions,” said Fahad bin Saad al-Qahtani, Group CEO, Milaha.

“We are pleased to formalise this partnership with Milaha. This pact enhances the resilience of our supply chain and strengthens our ability to operate efficiently as we expand globally. Through this collaboration, we continue to deliver world-class services and contribute to the Qatar National Vision 2030,” said Badr Mohammed al-Meer, Group CEO, Qatar Airways.

The pact aligns with Qatar's long-term development goals under Vision 2030. 🇶🇦

“This pact enhances the resilience of our supply chain and fortifies our ability to operate as we expand globally.”

to meet the evolving needs of QR Group. Backed by advanced logistics technologies and real-time visibility tools, the partnership is designed to enhance coordination, drive efficiency and support

“Through this collaboration, we continue to deliver world-class services and contribute to the Qatar National Vision 2030.”

the airline's global expansion. QR Group chose Milaha after a rigorous selection process that spotlighted the logistics provider's digital infrastructure, integrated systems and

AT A GLANCE

Five-year agreement

Milaha to deliver end-to-end warehousing and logistics services for Qatar Airways Group

Tech-driven logistics

Automated tracking and smart warehouse systems

National partnership

Aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030 to enhance global supply chain

Integrated operations


Milaha's high-tech digital infrastructure won the bid





SOHAR Port, HYNAT SA to **reshape logistics** with natural Hydrogen

With a clear development timeline and feasibility studies underway, the partnership is likely to catalyse new logistics corridors built around Hydrogen (H). They could play a role in decarbonising regional and global supply chains, while offering Oman a competitive edge in the future hydrogen export market.

 CT Bureau

SOHAR Port and Freezone have entered into an agreement with Swiss hydrogen specialist, HYNAT SA, to unlock the potential of natural hydrogen (H) as a sustainable energy source. It is a move that could have significant implications for the region's logistics and supply chain landscape.

The pact outlines efforts to build a full-spectrum hydrogen value chain within Oman, with logistics infra at the core of the roadmap. By focusing on the development of local and export-ready logistics systems for natural hydrogen, the partnership stands to strengthen SOHAR's role as a regional gateway for sustainable transport.

The initiative is aligned with Oman's clean energy goals and responds to increasing demand for low-carbon fuel solutions in freight, shipping and mobility. This includes identifying natural



hydrogen production zones, establishing dedicated transport corridors and developing storage and processing facilities designed to support industrial-scale distribution.

"The pact reinforces SOHAR Port and Freezone's commitment to advancing Oman's clean energy vision by supporting the exploration and development of natural hydrogen," said Emile Hoogsteden, CEO, SOHAR Port. "Through this partnership with HYNAT SA, we are laying the foundation for a future hydrogen economy, position-

ing SOHAR as a key gateway for low-carbon solutions and sustainable industrial growth."

HYNAT brings AI-powered detection tech and geological expertise to the table, complementing SOHAR's industrial logistics infra. The collaboration will map hydrogen demand across key logistics verticals, including heavy transport, maritime ops and cross-border trade.

Stéphane Aver, Chairman of HYNAT SA, commented, "The signing of this agreement demonstrates our com-

mitment to developing H as a renewable and low-carbon resource. We aim to speed up energy transition and unlock a new pillar of economic value and sustainability."

With a development timeline and feasibility studies underway, the partnership is likely to catalyse new logistics corridors built around natural H. These could play a role in decarbonising supply chains.



Warehouses push for smarter automation amid rapid growth

In the Middle East — where we are seeing fast growth in omnichannel retail and an e-commerce sector projected to reach US\$ 50 billion this year — the pressure to improve throughput, maximise density, optimise order fulfilment and adapt to demand spikes is mounting, says **Rami Younes, General Manager, Swisslog Middle East**.

CT Bureau

With regional logistics expected to double in size this year compared to 2020, a global warehouse report underscores the need for deeper integration of automation and advanced software

tools to meet growing operational demands.

While 97 per cent of respondents have adopted some form of automation, nearly half admit their facilities remain less than 50 per cent automated, revealing considerable room for advancement.



Rami Younes
General Manager
Swisslog Middle East

to optimise key functions such as bin retrieval and order batching, with the potential to boost speeds by up to 20 per cent. The report notes that as automation expands, seamless software integration

“In the Middle East, we are seeing fast growth in retail and an e-commerce sector projected to reach US\$ 50 bn by 2025.”

becomes critical to maintaining performance and minimising complexity.

“This year’s report makes it clear — automation alone is no longer enough. Businesses wanting to stay competitive must focus on software that enhances performance and integrates seamlessly across technologies. In the Middle East — where we are seeing fast growth in omnichannel retail and an e-commerce sector projected to reach US\$ 50 billion by 2025 — the pressure to improve throughput, maximise density, optimise order fulfilment and adapt to demand spikes is mounting. Software is the key enabler of these capabilities,” pointed out Rami Younes, General Manager, Swisslog Middle East.

The report also warns of the risks posed by fragmented automation systems, which can restrict efficiency and data usage. Swisslog’s SynQ platform addresses these loopholes by offering a software solution. 🚀

Highlights

- 93% of supply chain leaders rank throughput improvement as this year’s top priority
- 97% of warehouses have adopted some form of automation
- Nearly 50% of warehouses remain less than 50% automated
- Advanced software can boost bin retrieval speeds by up to 20%

Takeaways

- Automation alone is not enough; intelligent software is essential
- Software enables optimisation of throughput, order fulfilment and storage density
- Swisslog’s SynQ improves coordination and decision-making
- The Middle East’s rapid e-commerce growth intensifies demand for smart warehouse solutions



AJEX increases B2C delivery network across GCC region

AJEX Logistics Services, a specialist in e-commerce distribution and supply chain solutions, has announced regional expansion of its full mile and last-mile B2C services into Qatar, Oman and Kuwait — marking a milestone in its mission to offer end-to-end logistics coverage across the GCC countries.

CT Bureau

This move addresses the region's growing appetite for reliable e-commerce logistics offering merchants a one-stop delivery infrastructure tailored to market needs. Through this expansion, AJEX is providing businesses with a streamlined portfolio of cross-border fulfilment, customs clearance, COD services, returns management and parcel insurance for shipment transparency.

Industry indicates a CAGR of 11 per cent from 2023 to 2027, with the market projected to reach US\$ 50 billion by 2027. Countries such as Kuwait, Oman and Qatar are leading the next wave of demand — fashion, grocery and healthcare. This is because of a digital-savvy population, high logistics investment and e-commerce across the Gulf region, which is on a growth trajectory.



With this expansion, AJEX continues to cement its reputation as the go-to partner for scalable, tech-driven logistics, trusted by regional businesses for its operational agility and customer-first delivery model. "With the expansion of our B2C delivery ser-

vices into Qatar, Oman and Kuwait, AJEX is uniquely positioned to support the GCC countries with fast, reliable and customer-centric e-commerce logistics," said Mohammed Albayati, Group CEO, AJEX Logistics Services.

"As online retail continues to reshape consumer habits, we remain committed to creating agile and scalable logistics solutions that meet the needs of retailers and customers alike, while supporting the na-



Mohammed Albayati
Group CEO
AJEX Logistics Services

“AJEX is positioning itself in such a way as to ensure logistics is not just a back-end function anymore.”

tional vision for diversification, digital growth and regional integration.” As the Middle East's e-commerce ecosystem matures, AJEX is positioning itself at the intersection of innovation, regional integration and consumer expectations — ensuring logistics is not just a back-end function, but a growth enabler.



Takeaways

- Promotes real-time tracking for enhanced supply chain visibility
- GCC projected to hit US\$ 50 billion by 2027
- AJEX focuses on tech-enabled logistics for regional businesses

Impact

- Strengthens last-mile reliability in emerging Gulf e-commerce hubs
- Supports national vision for digital transformation/economic diversification
- Bridges infrastructure gaps with end-to-end delivery capabilities

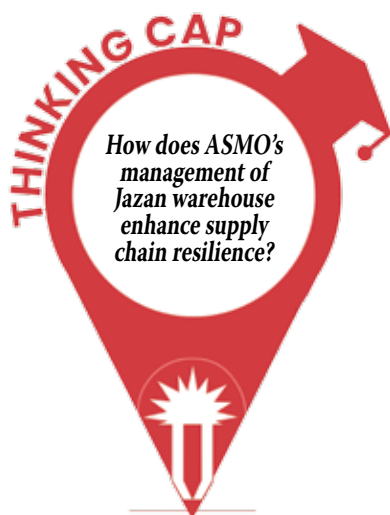
ASMO powers warehousing with Jazan facility launch

The Jazan warehouse marks a foundational move in ASMO's vision to integrate logistics into a unified digital platform. Its phased approach ensures alignment with operational priorities, beginning with general supply materials and extending to MRO, drilling, chemicals and project materials through 2027.

CT Bureau

ASMO, a joint venture between Saudi Aramco Development Company and DHL, has commenced operations of its second facility — the Jazan warehouse.

This marks a step in ASMO's broader national rollout, aligning with Saudi



Arabia's Vision 2030 goals of supply chain localisation and logistics infra enhancement.

The warehouse is situated within the Jazan Refinery Complex, which is managed by ASMO. The facility supports Aramco's downstream

operations, distribution, fire protection and terminal activities. The warehouse's switchover to ASMO is part of a phased rollout of services under a 15-year agreement with Aramco.

"By shifting Jazan warehousing operations and procurement services for general supply materials to ASMO, we are laying the foundation for a new era to transform and revolutionise supply chains," said Sulaiman M. Al Rubaian, SVP, Procurement & Supply Chain Management, Aramco. "ASMO's objective is to bring control and visibility to our supply chain."

The Jazan facility marks a move in ASMO's vision to integrate logistics into a unified digital platform. Its phased approach ensures alignment with operational priorities and extending to MRO, drilling, chemicals and project materials by 2027.

The switchover to ASMO is part of a phased rollout of services under a 15-year agreement with Aramco

"Delivering on procurement and logistics for Aramco's responsibility; they build trust, generate value and prepare to scale an integrated supply chain model across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," said Craig Roberts, CEO, ASMO.

ASMO has already launched warehousing operations in Riyadh and is planning expansion in more industrial zones, such as SPARK, Jubail and Yanbu. The company aims to operate 8 million square metres of warehousing and manage 500,000 inventory items by 2030.



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Johnson Controls, Elsewedy secure HVAC for rail project

The system is aimed at reducing travel time, while supporting Egypt's growing logistics and freight demand. Hitachi will supply 3,000 variable refrigerant flow (VRF) indoor units, manufactured in Barcelona. Elsewedy Machinery will manage end-to-end HVAC implementation.



CT Bureau

Johnson Controls-Hitachi Air Conditioning Middle East and Africa (MEA) along with Elsewedy Machinery has been awarded the HVAC contract for Egypt's high-speed rail network. This is a significant transport infrastructure project that will connect major cities and ports across the country.

The rail line spans 660 kilometres, linking Ain Sokhna, Alamein, Cairo and Alexandria among other key locations. Once operational, it is expected to move over 8,500 tonnes of cargo per day across 21 stations. The system is aimed at reducing travel time, while supporting Egypt's growing logistics and freight demand.

Under the agreement, Hitachi will supply more than 3,000 variable refrigerant flow (VRF) indoor units, manufactured in Barcelona, Spain. These high-efficiency units provide a total cooling capacity of more than 11,000 refrigeration tons (RTs) and are designed to operate reli-



Ahmed Aqel
General Manager
Johnson Controls-Hitachi
Air Conditioning MEA

“By integrating European made VRF systems into Egypt's rail infra, we are supporting a new benchmark in transport solutions.”

ably in Egypt's high-ambient climate conditions. The equipment carries Eurovent certification, ensuring performance compliance with international standards. Elsewedy Machinery, the trading arm of Elsewedy Electric Group, will

manage end-to-end HVAC implementation. This includes delivery, installation, copper piping, system start-up, commissioning and service support.

Ahmed Aqel, GM, Johnson Controls-Hitachi Air Conditioning MEA, said, “This mega project represents a pivotal advancement in Egypt's national infrastructure agenda. It reflects the country's vision for modern, efficient and climate-conscious transportation.” He added, “Our partnership with Elsewedy Electric brings together global HVAC innovation and local execution expertise. By integrating high-performance European-manufactured VRF systems into Egypt's high-speed rail infrastructure, we are supporting a new benchmark in transport solutions.”

The project is positioned to contribute to Egypt's sustainability objectives by supporting faster, more efficient and climate-resilient mobility. As the country expands its transport network, the deployment of energy-efficient systems across large-scale

public infrastructure continues to gain relevance. Once complete, the high-speed rail line is expected to influence economic activity and logistics flows across Egypt.

AT A GLANCE

Project
Egypt's high-speed rail (HSR)

Route length
660 km

Stations
21

HVAC solution
Over 3,000 VRF indoor units

Cooling capacity
11,000+ refrigeration tonnes

Impact
8,500 tonnes of cargo per day

TIR: Charting new paths in road cargo and logistics

The Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) system, managed by IRU, streamlines international road freight. It employs unified customs procedures, sealed cargo units and mutual recognition of inspections, thereby allowing goods to travel from origin to destination without stoppage for clearance.

CT Bureau

In a breakthrough in road trade and logistics, Simon Trucks has completed its road journey from Romania to Jordan using the new Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR), which is an international transit system. The shipment, which used to take eight weeks previously, was delivered in five days, indicating a shift in road freight between European Union (EU) and the Middle East.

The milestone was made possible through a newly operational land trade corridor, which passed through Bulgaria, Turkey and Iraq, before reaching Jordan. Iraq's implementation of the TIR system in April 2025 enabled convenient cross-border movement by eliminating time-consuming customs checks and port delays.

The TIR system, managed by International Road Transport Union (IRU) and backed by the UN, is designed to streamline

global road transport. It employs unified customs process, sealed cargo units and mutual recognition of inspections thereby allowing goods to travel without multiple clearances.

"This development represents a paradigm shift in global land freight," said Simon Abu Layl, Founder, Simon Trucks. "Reducing transit time from two months to only five days allows importers to receive goods faster."

The success has sparked optimism among regional stakeholders, who see the corridor as a viable alternative to maritime routes amid increasing shipping costs and port congestion. It is also expected to strengthen trade ties between the EU and the



Rami Karout
Senior Advisor, Middle East
and North Africa, IRU

Levant and Gulf regions, offering cost-effective supply chain options. "It is a turning point in trade connectivity between EU and the Middle East. The corridor reduces time and costs and enhances predictability and reliability across borders," said Rami Ka-

“Reducing transit time from two months to five days allows importers to receive goods faster. This reflects a shift in land freight.”

roun, Senior Advisor, the ME and North Africa, IRU.

Simon Trucks now aims to expand its logistics footprint, tapping into the demand for secure cross-border transport. The TIR system deployment across Iraq marks a step toward regional trade integration supporting a vision of more connected freight networks in the Middle East. 🚚



AD Ports Group, CMF to build minerals supply chains

To strengthen global logistics networks, AD Ports Group has signed a deal with the Critical Minerals Forum (CMF), aiming to create resilient and diversified supply chains for key minerals, such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite and manganese, that are indispensable to manufacture EVs and produce renewable energy systems and other technologies.

CT Bureau

As the world races toward a low-carbon future, the demand for critical minerals is steadily increasing. The spotlight is on supply chains that can deliver these essential resources. These minerals are indispensable to manufacture electric vehicles, produce renewable energy systems and other technologies driving the energy transition. Securing their smooth movement through global trade corridors is crucial to meeting ambitious decarbonisation targets.



INFRASTRUCTURE

AD Ports Group's network of world-class ports, terminals and integrated transport solutions will be central to enabling CMF's

mission of expanding critical mineral trade.

By leveraging its location and its facilities, the AD Ports Group is all set to

facilitate faster, more reliable cargo flows from mining regions to processing hubs and manufacturers.

"Leveraging AD Ports Group's world-class infrastructure, we are positioned to support resilient and diversified supply chains and meet the challenges of a complex supply chain," said Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamsi, Managing Director and Group CEO, AD Ports "The Group's logistics capabilities are instrumental in achieving our shared goals," added Rob Strayer, President, CMF.

AI advancing your cargo business

Your AI-powered project manager that automatically plans your calendar

Juggling shipments, customs paperwork and team coordination in cargo logistics? Motion's AI engine takes the guesswork out of scheduling, letting you tweak priorities and deadlines and auto scheduling tasks onto your calendar. Think of it as a smart logistics assistant that plans and replans your day for you.



into a unified calendar view. Set priority, deadlines or estimated durations, and Motion places tasks around existing events, dynamically optimising everything in real time.

As tasks are completed, linked tasks and project stages progress automatically, without manual updates.

What makes Motion a gamechanger for cargo logistics?

AI-driven task prioritisation and auto scheduling

Motion schedules input tasks and deadlines intelligently based on your defined priorities and workload. When changes happen, your day reshuffles automatically.

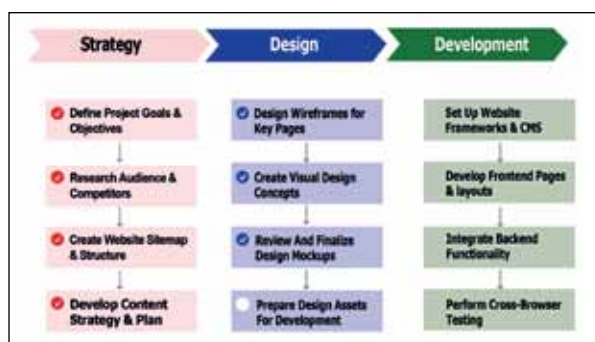
Automatic project progression

Task dependencies are managed by the Artificial Intelligence. When one step finishes, Motion advances to the next, eliminating bottlenecks and speeding up cross-team handoffs.



Manage freight operations with AI scheduling

Motion handles to do lists and meetings, project tasks across departments and turns them



Deep-work protection and optimal meeting scheduling

Motion blocks time strategically for focused work, avoids overbooking and schedules calls or meetings only during appropriate slots, maintaining balance and productivity.

Unified toolset with powerful integrations

Motion integrates seamlessly with calendars (Google or Outlook), email, Slack, Zoom, Teams and Zapier, thereby ensuring project and meeting data updates across the systems.

JAMAICA[®]

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The top half of the image shows the turquoise ocean with gentle waves lapping onto a wide, white sandy beach. Several small white boats are anchored near the shore. The beach is dotted with numerous palm trees and other tropical vegetation. In the bottom left corner, there are some buildings with dark roofs, partially obscured by the foliage. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with long shadows cast across the sand.

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2025

Upcoming
Events

SEPTEMBER

- 02-04** Logistics Experience (LOGEX)
Playa del Carmen, Mexico
- 03-04** 10th Air Cargo Conference
Frankfurt, Germany
- 08-11** Ace Cargo Event
Liège, Belgium
- 09** The Logistics Solutions Show (IMHX)
Birmingham, UK
- 09-10** CHAINge North America
Columbus, Ohio
- 10-11** 2nd World Cold Chain Expo
Dubai, UAE
- 17** International Conference on International Logistics and Supply Chain Management (ICILSCM)
Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 17** International Conference on Global Supply Chain and Logistics Management (ICGSCLM)
Dubai, UAE
- 22-24** Caspian Air Cargo Summit
Baku, Azerbaijan
- 23** Central Asia Air Cargo Summit
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 23-26** The Freight Summit's 15th Global Conference
Dubai, UAE
- 24-25** Cargo Experts Conference (CEC)
Brussels, Belgium

For more information

contact: talk@ddppl.com

The dates shown on the Events calendar are subject to change.

Please refer to EventTalk in **CARGO talk** to track the changes in dates

Amazon expands cargo fleet with Airbus A330-300 acquisition

Amazon has acquired 12-year-old Airbus A330-300 from Stratos to support its growing air ops, said Gary Fitzgerald, CEO, Stratos. The aircraft, formerly operated by Corsair International, will undergo passenger-to-freighter conversion in the USA and is registered as N7019K. Powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 700 engines, this marks Amazon's 10th A330F addition. The deal reflects rising demand for wide-body freighter conversions and Stratos' strength in mid-life aircraft placements. Amazon Air's fleet totals 96 aircraft, including A330s, B737-800s, and B767-300s.



"We are delighted to have facilitated this transition from Corsair to Amazon. This placement shows Stratos global network's strength and our ability to source and dispose of quality assets," he added.

ATSG delivers first EASA-certified A321P2F to Warsaw Cargo

Air Transport Services Group (ATSG) has delivered its first A321P2F, certified by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), to Warsaw Cargo, said Jarosław Chłopecki, Chief Executive, Warsaw Cargo. The narrowbody A321PCE, converted by ATSG's JV 321 Precision Conversions, offers up to 27 tonnes payload and is designed for time-sensitive shipments on short-to-medium-haul routes. This delivery supports Warsaw Cargo's launch and expansion of flexible regional ACMI and charter services across Europe. "As a new cargo carrier, we are focused on building a strong



foundation with the right partners and the right equipment," Chłopecki added.

Boeing produces major wing components of 777-8F

Boeing has achieved a milestone in production of its next-gen wide-body freighter, 777-8F — set to enter service in 2028. The first wing spar over 100-feet-long has been completed along with skin panels and stringers, said Ben Linder, Chief Project Engineer, 777 and 777-8. Major assemblies are underway with support from key suppliers in Japan. Over 80 per cent of the aircraft's design drawings are finalised and system testing is in progress. With 59 orders till date and Qatar Airways as launch customer, the 777-8F promises 30 per cent lower fuel use, 25 per cent better operating costs and 60 per cent noise reduction compared to older models. "Boeing's freighters serve 90 per cent of the global freighter market. Custom-



ers count on us to deliver the first 777-8 freighter to expand their operations and replace retiring 747-400 freighters," Linder added.

Lufthansa Cargo launches new weekly A321 route linking Frankfurt–Beirut

Lufthansa Cargo has inaugurated a new weekly A321 freighter route connecting Frankfurt and Beirut. The first flight touched down in the Lebanese capital on 3 July, said Oliver Rossius, Head, Scheduling and Network Steering. Operating every Thursday, the service boosts dedicated cargo capacity alongside existing Lufthansa Group belly operations. The new link enhances Lufthansa Cargo's presence across 50 destinations in the Middle East and Africa. It is set to facilitate exports of perishables, pharmaceuticals, electronics and tradi-



tional crafts from Lebanon, while supporting trade from Syria. "Frankfurt's position as a logistics hub in Europe, combined with its

extensive infrastructure, makes it an ideal starting and transit point for our new freighter service to Beirut," he said.

Neste, DHL Express partner to advance SAF in air cargo supply chain



Neste and DHL Express have agreed on supply of 7,400 tonnes (9.5 million litres) of Neste MY SAF for DHL's flights from Singapore Changi Airport, starting July 2025 through June 2026, said, Christopher Ong, Managing Director, DHL Express Singapore. This marks DHL's first direct SAF purchase for flights from Singapore and is one of the largest SAF deals in Asia's cargo sector. The SAF, produced locally at Neste's Singapore refinery, will power DHL's five Boeing 777Fs, helping reduce GHG emissions by up to 80 per cent over conventional jet fuel. The pact supports Singapore's goal of 1 per cent SAF use in aviation by 2026 and strengthens efforts toward sustainable logistics across Asia-Pacific.

Delta Cargo's LA-Hong Kong daily nonstop flights next year to enhance capacity

Delta Cargo will start daily nonstop flights from Los Angeles International Airport to Hong Kong International Airport on 6 June 2026, enhancing its transpacific cargo capacity, said Doug Webster, Chief Operations and Maintenance Officer, Los Angeles World Airports. The service, operated by Airbus A350, will carry over 20 tonnes of cargo per flight, including electronics, perishables and e-commerce.



This route enhances Delta Cargo's network between two major freight markets and supports global supply chains. Delta will launch three daily flights from LAX to Chicago O'Hare starting 7 June 2026, strengthening its presence in key markets. "As one of the world's busiest airports, Los Angeles airport is proud to welcome Delta Cargo's new non-stop service to Hong Kong and Chicago."

Chapman Freeborn delivers record cargo to PIK

Chapman Freeborn has set a record transporting the single heaviest cargo ever handled, to Glasgow Prestwick Airport (PIK), "This operation required close coordination between our UK team and the airline, working alongside the CAA to ensure the cargo arrived on schedule," said Adam Duck-



worth, Cargo Charter Broker, Chapman Freeborn. The 67-foot, 24-tonne oil and industry component arrived from Kuala Lumpur via Liège on a B747F nose loader. The operation involved three connecting pallets and multiple cranes unloaded the machinery.

Hamburg Airport adopts FAIR@Link for digital handling

Hamburg Airport is advancing air cargo digitalisation with the mandatory adoption of the FAIR@Link Cargo Community System, developed by a Fraport and DAKOSY



joint venture, said Alexander Müller, Head, Office & Logistics, Hamburg Airport. The platform will streamline handling, customs processes, enable shipment declarations and capacity planning. Handling agents, such as Wisag Cargo, LUG and Swissport, guarantee reduced paperwork and faster processing.

Movements



DUVENBECK GROUP Germany

Marco Nazzari has been appointed CCO at Duvenbeck Group. In his new role, he will lead the firm's commercial initiatives, with a focus on scaling performance and driving growth across the company's business lines. He has held senior roles at DP World, CEVA and Crane Worldwide.



KUEHNE+NAGEL Switzerland

Marcus Claesson has been appointed Management Board Member, Kuehne+Nagel International AG. He will be responsible for the Group's global information tech. With 25 years of experience, he served as CIO at Daimler Truck AG and held various roles at Daimler AG & Electrolux AB.



ROYAL SCHIPHOL GROUP The Netherlands

Eduard Molkenboer has been appointed Head, Cargo at Royal Schiphol Group. He will oversee ops at Schiphol and Maastricht Aachen Airport. He worked for 10 years in the DHL Group's supply chain. He worked as Head, Strategic Products, Europe and MEA.



DHL GLOBAL FORWARDING AND FREIGHT Germany

Oscar de Bok has been appointed CEO, DHL Global Forwarding and Freight. He joined DHL in 1999 and served as the CEO, DHL Supply Chain since 2019. His understanding of the business make him drive sustainable growth in DHL.



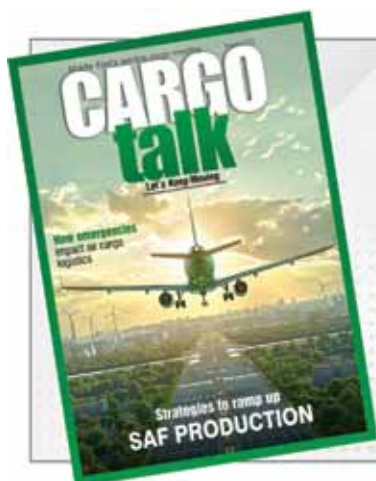
AIA CARGO United Kingdom

Giuseppe Tarantini was appointed CEO at AIA Cargo. He began his career with Swissair Cargo in Milan, moved to South African Airways as GM, Europe, and later worked with CMA CGM Air Cargo and Air France KLM. Recently, he served as dnata's Commercial Project Manager in the UK.



LUFTHANSA CARGO Germany

Frank Bauer has been appointed COO at Lufthansa Cargo. Previously serving as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Human Resources Officer, he move to this leadership role highlights Lufthansa Cargo's focus on innovation and excellence, supported by his expertise in finance and HR.



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shehara@ddppl.com, +971 55 470 4202
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