

Middle East's leading cargo monthly

July 2024

CARGO talk

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Moving

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ACROSS ETIHAD
CARGO'S**
network in
summer schedule

**OPTIMISING COLD
CHAIN LOGISTICS**

for precise planning
and transport

Stanislaus Brun
Vice President
Etihad Cargo

CARGO



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To the Editor

Thank you very much. Your magazine has been an excellent voice for the air cargo industry. If there is anything I can do to assist in the future, please do not hesitate to let me know. I am more than happy to help.

Pongsathorn Sangasang (YOU)
Director, Ground Operations and Commercial
Pattaya Aviation

My relationship with CARGO talk has been incredibly rewarding. As an esteemed e-journal, they have featured me in numerous articles, seeking my insights on various logistics topics.

Their thoughtful questions and commitment to industry excellence have allowed me to share my expertise and contribute to the ongoing dialogue in the logistics world. CARGO talk is a significant platform for industry professionals.

Jessica Panigari
Founder
Goods2Load

Thanks a lot for the great opportunities that are transforming me into a journalist, which is both interesting and exciting.

Mohammed Bilal,
Manager Operations and Documentation
Blue Bell Shipping LLC
(Guest columnist for CTME)

Thank you so much for the opportunity to contribute to your magazine. Writing a guest column for CARGO talk enhances professional credibility by showcasing expertise in the field. It is helping me to expand my knowledge through research and staying updated on industry trends. Also, it strengthens networks both within and beyond the cargo industry, improving communication skills and thought processes. Engaging with the industry through writing impacts the cargo community by sharing valuable insights and fostering connections.

Sijo Joseph
Senior Manager, Orient Cargo

Excellent, many thanks!



Marie Owens Thomsen
Senior Vice President
Sustainability and Chief Economist
IATA Sustainability & Economics

Thank you. Nice article on drones and logistics.

Glyn Hughes
Director General
TIACA

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OPTIMISING COLD CHAIN LOGISTICS

for precise planning
and transport

COVID gave pace to growth of refrigerated warehouse capacity worldwide. In 2020, global refrigerated warehouse capacity reached 719 million cubic meters, with the USA, India, and China being the largest markets. In the Middle East, cold chain logistics gained significance, especially as temperatures soared. **CARGO** talk spoke to cold chain professionals who ensure that these products remain safe and maintain their quality throughout.





 Abigail Mathias

Cold chain transportation management occurs in-house for smaller operations or local deliveries, and, but for a larger company that works internationally, delivering temperature-sensitive products becomes complicated. This creates an opportunity to partner with third-party logistics (3PL) companies that have expertise in cold chain transportation. This is where supply chain management comes in.

A cold chain is a temperature-controlled cold chain network. It is a system that takes preservation seriously and treats products with recommended cold temperature levels. This allows customers to receive the highest qual-

From an economic development point of view, cold chain enables many economies to take part in perishable products market

ity products regardless of the season. Cold chain logistics is the technology and process that allows for accurate planning and safe transport of temperature-sensitive goods and products along the supply chain.

The cold chain involves transportation of temper-

ature-sensitive products along with a supply chain through thermal and refrigerated packaging methods and the logistical planning to protect the integrity of these shipments.

There are several means in which cold chain products can be transported, including refrigerated trucks and railcars, refrigerated cargo ships, reefers, and air cargo. From an economic development perspective, the cold chain enables many developing economies to take part in the international perishable products market either as producers or as consumers.

3PL providers began to emerge and institute new methods for transporting global cold chain commodities since the early 1950s.

Before their emergence, cold chain processes were mostly managed in house by the manufacturer or the distributor. In the U.S. Food and Drug Administration restrictions and accountability measures has incited many companies to rely on specialty couriers rather than overhauling supply chain facilities.

KEY FEATURES

- Cold chain is a system that treats products with recommended cold temperature levels.
- 3PL providers began to emerge and institute new methods for transporting global cold chain commodities since the early 1950s.

Consistent temperature control according to regulations essential

One of the challenges in cold chain storage and transportation is maintaining consistent temperature control, as any deviation can compromise product integrity. Well-maintained infrastructure, facilities, and equipment are essential to ensure refrigerated storage facilities operate



John O'Grady
Manager, Authorisations
& Standards, Operations
& Delivery, Etihad Cargo

deviations during loading, unloading, and transfer operations. Adherence to international, national, and local regulations regarding temperature control and storage is crucial. Etihad Cargo addresses these challenges through its PharmaLife and FreshForward products, which provide tailored solutions

for temperature-sensitive commodities. PharmaLife handles temperatures from minus 80 to 25°C using leased active and hybrid containers, while FreshForward offers expedited handling, priority dispatch, and robust contingency processes.

KEY FEATURES

- PharmaLife handles temperatures from minus 80 to 25°C using hybrid containers.

“Handling processes must minimise temperature deviations during loading and unloading operations.”

within the required temperature ranges. Handling processes must minimise temperature

Investments in tech advancements enables better data-based planning

Temperature controlled transport chain for a variety of perishables and other sensitive products requires appropriate facilities as well as operational procedures. In 2018, Finnair Cargo opened one of the most sophisticated air cargo terminals in the world to build on its reputation for the han-



Gabriela Hiitola
Senior Vice President,
Finnair Cargo

dling of perishables. At the heart of this is temperature monitoring and efficiency. Finnair's COOL cargo terminal in Helsinki is monitored round-the-clock with digital temperature monitoring devices and experts on site to ensure that perishables and other temperature-sensi-

tive goods stored and ferried properly. As Helsinki is an uncongested airport, perishable products can be moved to the aircraft stands exactly 30 minutes before departure, meaning they can stay longer in the dedicated temperature zones. Investments in new technology advancements enables data-based operations planning and better temperature tracking.

“COOL cargo terminal is monitored 24x7 with digital temperature devices and experts on site.”



Upgrading logistics & transportation must to ensure delivery of perishables

Some challenges facing cold chain logistics in the UAE include maintaining consistent temperature throughout the supply chain, ensuring compliance with regulations for handling and transporting perishables, and dealing with the demand for cold chain services following growth of food and pharma industries. The cold



Brent Melvin
GM, RSA Global Cold
Chain Division

chain sector in the UAE was developed in recent years along with technology advancements for maintaining temperatures, establishment of specialised cold storage facilities, and improvements in logistics and transportation services to ensure delivery of perishables

B2B and B2C space. Investment in infrastructure, increased collaboration among stakeholders, and imparting training programmes can help reduce cargo losses. To operate a cold chain in the UAE, firms must adhere to regulations of the authorities. While progress was made in controlling perishable cargo losses in the Middle East.

“Cold chain in the UAE was developed recently with tech for maintaining consistent temperature.”

Using AI is significant in managing data, making informed decisions

Yes. There is a certain fatigue regarding sustainability due to the demands of compliance, investment, and the pace of required changes. However, we, as a company, view them as essential for long-term benefits—cost savings and improved



Rohit Thakwani
Chief Executive Officer
Airglow Aviation

brand reputation. Despite the fatigue, our company's commitment to sustainability strengthens our competitive edge and positions us as a leader in the industry. Looking ahead, we would like to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) among others, which is key to manage

the data and make informed decisions. Our company is also working on this as well as a sustainable approach to do what we do. The industry relies on a twin-pronged strategy—airlines and customers. We are trying to encourage our clients to use more sustainable options.

“Commitment to sustainability strengthens our competitive edge and positions us as a leader in the industry.”

Inadequate infrastructure, improper handling can worsen product quality

Challenges in cold chain storage and transportation include maintaining temperature control throughout the process to ensure product integrity, particularly for pharmaceuticals and perishables. Inadequate infrastructure, such as insufficient refrigerated warehouses and vehicles, exacerbates these challenges, more so in less developed regions. Proper handling at every stage is crucial to prevent temperature excursions that can compromise quality. Stringent regulatory



Pongsathorn Sangasang
Director, Ground Operations and Commercial
Pattaya Aviation

compliance with authorities such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or European Medicines Agency is essential. The coordination of suppliers, warehouses, and transportation providers needs planning in order to ensure a seamless cold chain process. Recent developments in the sector include

Internet of Things-enabled temperature monitoring systems, which provide real-time data to maintain product integrity during transit. Packaging solutions, such as vacuum-insulated panels and phase change materials, have enhanced temperature stability. However, stumbling blocks still remain. Preventing loss of materials in the cold chain involves several strategies, including investing in advanced temperature monitoring and tracking technologies in a bid to provide real-time data and alerts for any deviations.

“Recent developments in the sector include IoT-enabled temperature monitoring systems.”



Products arrive in optimal condition if we make efforts in handling process

At a time when many conferences and exhibitions are organised, it is time to reflect on connectivity—whether they must be improved or established. Where the world meets again and many logistics stakeholders exchange ideas. Im-



Gerton Hulsman
Member
Board of Directors
Cool Chain Association

provements that will benefit the industry. Not only financially but also improvements in working methods and reduction in administrative workload. Based on the idea of improving our efforts, preventing waste and claims ensure that the merchandise arrives in an optimal condition.

“It is also necessary that we treat each other more openly in the field of data sharing an optimal condition.”

It is also necessary that we treat each other more openly in the field of data sharing and form a digital assembly line. Efforts should be made to ensure that quality of the product/s is improved, so that all parties in the chain benefit from it. 🍓



Responding swiftly to crises by transporting **emergency aid**

Etihad Cargo's network and capabilities have made the carrier a natural choice for government bodies seeking a partner to facilitate transportation of aid. Variety in aid delivered underscores our flexibility and capability to meet the needs of different crises, despite the challenges and logistical complexities.

Etihad Cargo has demonstrated the commitment to provide humanitarian aid through emergency charters over the past 12 months. Despite the challenges and logistical complexities involved, we have responded to crises

affected by natural disasters, geopolitical unrest, and other emergencies. Key destinations included Asia, where crucial supplies were provided following severe flooding in the Philippines, and Africa, where the company responded to

shelf life and nutritional value, making them ideal for emergencies where refrigeration is not available. The variety in the aid delivered underscores Etihad Cargo's flexibility and capability to meet the specific needs of different crises.

operated 200 charter flights to 30 destinations not covered by our regular network, with 20 per cent of these flights undertaken on the UAE Government's behalf. These charters delivered aid to countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, and Senegal, among others. Our experience in delivering aid has positioned Etihad Cargo as a vital player in global humanitarian logistics. Our ability to deploy capacity on behalf of any government entity requiring urgent attention underscores the trust and reliability the firm has built over the years.



around the world, organising 250 charters in collaboration with the UAE government and other partners to carry 1,500 tonnes of emergency aid.

The past year has seen Etihad Cargo's efforts span across several continents, reflecting the nature of the crises addressed. In the Middle East, Etihad Cargo played a vital role in delivering food and medical supplies to Gaza, underscoring our ability to operate in conflict zones. In Europe, it responded to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine by flying aid to support affected communities. Etihad Cargo organised the transportation of emergency goods out of the USA to critical locations.

Our charters have transported essentials to regions

flooding in Nairobi, Kenya, ensuring that aid reached the affected populations.

The aid transported by Etihad Cargo includes a wide range of essentials. Our char-

“Time is of the essence in relief operations, and we have set up a mechanism to ensure rapid response.”

ters have carried food, medical supplies, clothing, and other items. Among the food supplies, dates were a common item due to their long

Time is of the essence in emergency relief operations, and we have established a mechanism to ensure rapid response. While the international standard for emergency aid delivery is within 72 hours of a disaster, the airline in coordination with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims to respond within 24 to 48 hours, reducing the response time. This setup allows Etihad Cargo to plan and operate new flights, ensuring that emergency aid reaches those in need without delay. A network of partner operators is on standby to assist with missions that require specific expertise or equipment, such as military aircraft.

Etihad Cargo's efforts are not limited to recent emergencies. During COVID, we

Etihad Cargo's dedication to organising charters for emergency aid over the past 12 months highlights the cargo airline's role in humanitarian efforts. By responding swiftly to crises across multiple continents, Etihad Cargo continues to fulfil its mission of providing timely relief, demonstrating the spirit thereby of compassion and responsibility inherent in our operations.



Stanislaus Brun
Vice President
Etihad Cargo

(The views expressed are solely of the author. The publication may or may not subscribe to the same)



Second edition

Countdown begins for Arabian Cargo Awards

After the success of the maiden Arabian Cargo Awards in 2023, the 2024 edition will mesmerise the air cargo and logistics industry on November 11, 2024 in Dubai. The awards are held in honour of the hard work by the 'Heroes' of the air cargo and logistics fraternity.

Glimpses of ACA 2023



ARABIAN CARGO AWARDS

 Abigail Mathias

The Arabian Cargo Awards 2024 will take place in the UAE on November 11 this year at the Conrad Hotel in Dubai. The awards hosted by Durga Das Publications serve as a platform created with a vision to recognise excellence in the air cargo and logistics industry across various domains, including air, rail, road, warehousing, technology, 3PL, among others.

The awards ceremony is known for their formal Black-Tie affair, filled with glitz and glamour, attended by the most influential personalities in the air cargo industry.

Discussing this prestigious event, Sanjeet, Director, DDP Publications said, "These awards will set the benchmark for all in the cargo industry. We recognise the efforts of those working behind the scenes, motivate them and applaud them for their services."

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Elaborating on the significance of the event, Sanjeet added, "In these challenging times, the air cargo and logistics industry has demonstrated its importance to the world. The Arabian Cargo Awards witnesses the growth of the GCC and is a platform with a vision to recognise those behind the success of the air cargo industry."

The ceremony is expected to be a very important date with a prestigious attendance. "With so many people putting their trust in the air cargo industry, our position allows us to deliver on our aim to host a world-class event. Based on a unique system of jury judgement and voting, these awards will be fair and unbiased, finally culminating in a formal black-tie ceremony that is glitzy, glamorous affair and graced by the who's who of the air cargo industry." Tipped to be the 'Oscars' of the air cargo industry, the



Top Awards Winners of ACA 2023

Category	Winners
Gallery of Legends	Amadou Diallo – CEO DHL Global Forwarding, Middle East and Africa
DDP Gamechanger	Nadia Abdul Aziz – President NAFL (National Association of Freight and Logistics)
DDP Trailblazer	Nasir Jamal Khan – CEO Al Naboodah
Face of the Future	Abhishek Ajay Shah – CEO RSA Global
Best Cargo Airline	Etihad Cargo

In these times, the air cargo and logistics industry has demonstrated its importance to the world

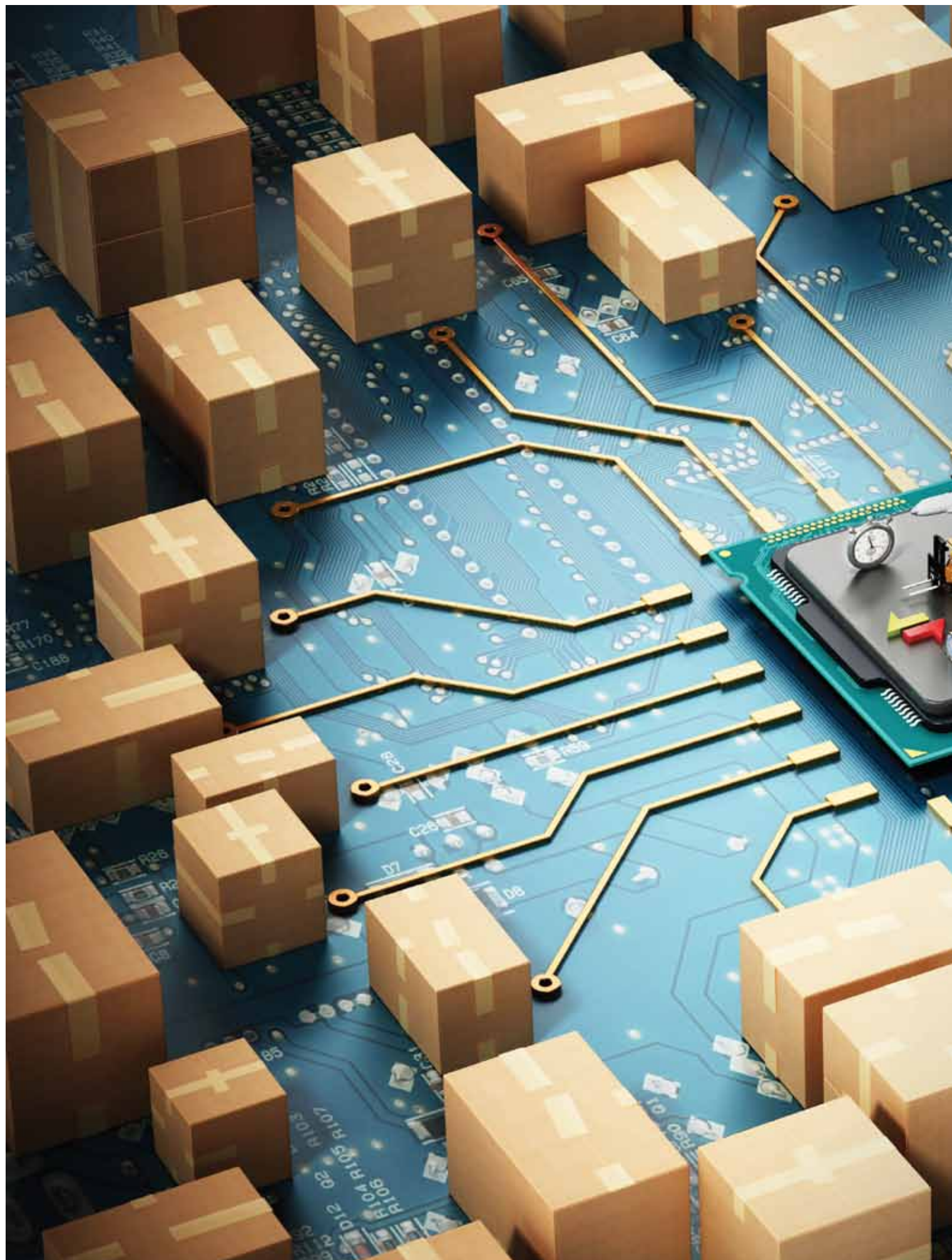
Arabian Cargo Awards is giving a clarion call to the best of the best in all regions to participate in the event. Planned as an exclusive one-of-its-kind event, nominations have already begun and the nomination link is shared with distinguished members of the cargo fraternity. Distinguished as the first internet

voting-based award, they are also known to be fair and unbiased. These awards are supported by CargoTV.news, CargoTalk Middle East, and Cargo Breaking News Middle East as premier media partners for extensive coverage.

SOME OF THE TOP CATEGORIES

- Air Cargo Services
- Sea Cargo Services
- Road Cargo Services
- Freight Forwarder of the Year
- Allied Industry Services
- Logistics Service Provider
- Third Party logistics
- Warehousing Management
- Business & Management

For more details visit our dedicated website on: <https://www.arabiancargoawards.ae/>



Last-mile delivery improves through chatbots, geocoding

Last-mile delivery has witnessed technological advancements, which have given it a push in recent years. These include ADVs ranging from drones to ground-based robots that navigate autonomously for delivery at the last-mile. In the next three to five years, we are likely to see large, semiautonomous delivery vehicles that follow human staff during delivery.



 Abigail Mathias

Incorporating new technology in the last-mile journey comes with its complexities, particularly regarding address accuracy and delivery resequencing. Achieving native integration with the entire ecosystem and managing associated costs are key areas we monitor. When deployed successfully, technology speeds up last-mile deliveries cost-effectively.

It streamlines operations and minimises errors, leading to more efficient and reliable service.

Additionally, technology also enhances the customer satisfaction by making sure that all of the deliveries have been delivered to the right destination at the right time, with the assistance of the tracking system rather than calling the driver for an update.

The challenges are mostly on the technical side, while incorporating and adding new features to such platforms that offer last-mile delivery because it is a sector that can always be enhanced with features to make the experience better for the customer so we can build the loyalty between the two. The other challenge would be the adaptation of the user to the new technology. Since shipping/last-mile delivery has been there for a

Whenever a new tech is introduced, it would require a lot of time and education to change the habit of the user

long time, people have been used to a specific way of dealing of shipping, so whenever a new technology is introduced, it would require a lot of time and education to change the user's habit.

Technology is a boon for speeding up last-mile deliveries. AI-driven route optimisation, real-time tracking, and predictive analytics enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and minimise carbon emissions. These advancements ensure timely deliveries and improve customer satisfaction.

However, it is crucial to secure data to protect customer privacy and maintain trust. Proper data security measures are essential to leverage these technological benefits fully.



AI-driven route optimisation and real-time tracking transforms LMD

Technology is an enabler that plays a critical role to enhance efficiency and sustain operations. It helps to reduce costs with real-time updates and visibility. Technology's role in last-mile delivery extends beyond cost reduction to become an adaptable tool with



Yasser Zahreddine
Country General
Manager, SMSA Express

the advent of the Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI). It can forecast issues, provide solutions, optimise practices and help to determine efficient business practices. With the rise of B2C and e-commerce space, seamless integration between a good delivery partner

and e-commerce platform is crucial for providing visibility and monitoring the end-customer experience. Advanced technology provides all the above-mentioned benefits and could also be disruptive when the new technology cannot harmonise with all systems in place. Real-time tracking also raises the concern about privacy and data security.

“Last-mile delivery extends beyond cost reduction to become an adaptable tool with the advent of GenAI.”

Technology integral to our operations, especially in last mile

In the logistics and transportation sector, technology plays a pivotal role in optimising the last-mile delivery (LMD) segment. At the company, advanced technology is integral to our operations, particularly in the last mile where we deploy it to drive op-



Francoise Russo
Chief Technology Officer,
Aramex

erational efficiency and to improve customer experience. We leverage advanced technologies such as maps and geocoding, live tracking, and Artificial Intelligence, and we collaborate with senior partners in this space in order to enhance last mile deliveries. These advanced technologies enable

accurate last-mile delivery windows, time definite delivery service, real-time tracking, and proactive communication with customers via chatbots and automated scheduling. Additionally, the company is also beginning to adopt green technology in order to reduce carbon emissions as part of our sustainability goals.

“We leverage maps and geocoding, live tracking, AI and collaborate with senior partners to enhance last-mile deliveries.”



Leveraging AI for route optimisation, providing real-time data strategic

Technology is crucial in addressing operational inefficiencies, load planning, and data gaps in last-mile deliveries. For logistics operators, leveraging Artificial Intelligence for route optimisation and providing real-time data is strategic. Implementation of advanced technology can enhance



Imrah R Chizyuka
Director, Digital Adoption
and Strategy, Soft Freight
Logic (SFL Tech)

last-mile deliveries, offering increased efficiency, transparency, agility, and cost savings. However, many organisations in this segment adopt advanced technology based on immediate requirements, resulting in short-term gains without achieving transformative impact. Some of

the challenges include complex integrations, vendor dependencies, and performance monitoring. The sector often relies on third-party providers, adding complexity to the door-to-door shipments. For asset-owned operations, high technology ownership costs, platform integrations, and workforce adaptation among others pose significant challenges.

“The sector frequently relies on third-party logistics (3PL), adding complexity to the door-to-door shipments.”



Chatbots, shipper portals provide real-time shipment tracking

Technology is a game changer in the last mile sector. By leveraging innovations such as GPS, AI, and IoT at AJEX Logistics Services, we ensure real-time tracking, precise delivery time predictions, reduce operational costs, and improve customer satisfaction through real-time updates and seamless communication.



Fahad Al Salhi
Chief Solutions Officer,
AJEX Logistics Services

For example, our adoption of tools such as chatbots, shipper portals, and mobile applications simplify order placement and provide real-time shipment tracking. AI-powered algorithms analyse historical data to predict shipping times and anticipate delays, enabling pro-

active planning and informed decision-making. Our dedication to automating warehousing solutions and integrating advanced technologies for inventory management and order processing further elevates service quality. Technologies such as real-time monitoring and temperature mapping are vital for firms such as healthcare and maintaining security and integrity of products throughout the last-mile delivery.

“AI-powered algorithms analyse historical data in order to forecast shipping times and anticipate delays.”





Technology enhances delivery by pinpointing location, pin codes

Technology plays a significant role in the last-mile delivery segment. Technology helps us dictate the exact location of the receiver via online maps giving us the opportunity to send the product from the closest warehouse or shows us, which route is the best or the nearest to use to reduce our carbon footprint.



Ali Javaheri
CEO
Shiplifier

Advanced technology enhances last-mile delivery by reducing the amount of communication needed to deliver the product, which is beneficial in logistics sector as it would save a lot of time when delivery features are optimised to having live tracking to track his/her order and

for building trust between the client and owner. Introducing technology to LMD services have their own disadvantages: Privacy and security of information traded online such as payments and items delivered technology bugs and crashes.

“Technology helps us dictate the exact location of the receiver via online maps and which route is best to reduce carbon footprint.”

KEY FEATURES

- Tech enhances LMD by reducing the amount of communication needed to deliver the products.



Accurate times possible only through real-time tracking

Technology, particularly AI and automation, is revolutionising LMD. AI-driven dynamic route optimisation enables real-time adjustments, ensuring faster and efficient deliveries, while reducing fuel costs. Optimised routing and load planning reduce emissions by minimising unnecessary mileage.



Dhruv Agrawal
COO and Co-Founder,
Shippy

ML algorithms analyse delivery patterns forecast the efficient routes, minimising delays and enhancing customer satisfaction. AI-powered real-time tracking and predictive analytics provide customers with accurate delivery times, improving transparency and trust. Advanced

technologies such as AI, automation and predictive intelligence are empowering businesses across the world to plan supply chain operations based on real-time data, unearth cost optimisation pockets, reduce miles driven and make miles traveled greener. AI-powered intelligence helps validate addresses against a database, auto-correct pin/area codes using geospatial data, and identify the nearest serviceable codes. 📍

“Technologies such as AI and predictive intelligence are vesting businesses to plan supply chains based on real-time data.”



10% year-on-year growth in air cargo demand in Middle East: **IATA**

Global air cargo demand started in Q2 with a solid 11.1% increase. While many uncertainties remain, it appears that the roots of air cargo's strong performance are deepening. Global international traffic rose by 11.6 per cent compared to April 2023, supported by all regions and major trade lanes, says **Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA**.



Middle Eastern carriers saw 9.4 per cent year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in April. The Middle East-Europe market performed particularly well with 30.1 per cent annual growth, ahead of Middle East-Asia, which grew by 10.4 per cent year-on-year. Capacity in the month of April increased 5.7 per cent YoY. At the same time, the air cargo markets are showing strong annual growth in demand into the Q2 of 2024, IATA stated.

❖ Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres



Willie Walsh
Director General
IATA

(CTKs), rose by 11.1 per cent compared to April 2023 levels (11.6% for international operations). This is the fifth con-

“With the Purchasing Managers Index indicating growth, the prospects for strong demand are more robust.”

secutive month of double-digit year-on-year growth.

❖ Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometres (ACTKs), increased by 7.1 per

cent compared to April 2023 (10.2% for international operations). “Air cargo demand started in Q2 with a solid 11.1 per cent increase.

While many economic uncertainties remain, it appears that the roots of air cargo's strong performance are deepening. The air cargo demand, in recent months, grew more when Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) indicated the potential was for contraction. With the PMI now indicating growth, the prospects for continued strong demand are even more robust,” Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA, said. Global international traffic



Air cargo market in detail - April 2024

		April 2024 (% year-on-year)				April 2024 (% year-to-date)			
	World share 1	CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-pt)	CLF (level)	CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-pt)	CLF (level)
TOTAL MARKET	100.0%	11.1%	7.1%	1.6%	43.9%	12.7%	10.3%	0.9%	45.5%
Africa	2.0%	10.6%	18.7%	-3.1%	42.9%	15.5%	20.7%	-2.0%	44.5%
Asia Pacific	33.3%	14.0%	7.8%	2.4%	44.5%	16.2%	16.9%	-0.3%	45.1%
Europe	21.4%	12.7%	10.3%	1.1%	51.5%	12.5%	10.2%	1.1%	55.7%
Latin America	2.8%	11.7%	9.8%	0.6%	38.7%	10.6%	7.7%	1.0%	37.4%
Middle East	13.5%	9.4%	5.7%	1.5%	44.7%	19.5%	12.2%	2.8%	46.4%
North America	26.9%	7.0%	4.0%	1.1%	38.7%	5.0%	22%	1.1%	40.2%
International	86.6%	11.6%	10.2%	0.6%	50.1%	13.5%	13.2%	0.3%	51.3%
Africa	2.0%	11.1%	18.8%	-3.1%	44.0%	15.6%	20.6%	-0.1%	45.7%
Asia Pacific	29.8%	13.8%	14.4%	-0.2%	54.0%	15.6%	20.5%	0.4%	53.2%
Europe	21.0%	12.9%	10.6%	1.1%	53.1%	12.8%	10.6%	0.1%	57.6%
Latin America	2.4%	8.9%	10.7%	-0.7%	42.9%	9.6%	9.3%	1.7%	42.1%
Middle East	13.4%	9.4%	5.7%	1.5%	45.0%	19.5%	12.3%	0.4%	46.7%
North America	17.9%	8.5%	6.4%	0.9%	47.0%	6.9%	6.0%	-1.4%	47.8%

Note 1: % of industry CTKs in 2023

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

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

Asia-Pacific airlines saw demand grow by 14 per cent year-on-year in April, while demand within the Asia market grew by 13.2 per cent and the Asia-Europe route grew by 17.7 per cent. The Middle East-Asia route rose by 10.4 per cent, 9.5 percentage points (ppt) less than the growth recorded in March. Capacity increased by 7.8 per cent year-on-year.

North American carriers saw 7 per cent year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in April. Demand on the Asia-North America trade lane grew by 7.3 per cent year-on-year, while the North America-Europe route saw an increase of 5.6 per cent—the weakest among all regions.



April capacity increased by 4.0 per cent year-on-year. European carriers saw 12.7 per cent YoY demand growth for air cargo in April. Intra-European air cargo rose by 34.4 per cent compared to April 2023, reflecting the highest annual growth in a decade and a jump

of 8.1 ppt compared to the month before. Europe–Middle East routes saw demand rise by 30.1 per cent, experiencing a drop of 8.5 ppt compared to the previous month's figures. At the same time, April capacity increased 10.3 per cent year-on-year. 📈

rose by 11.6 per cent compared to April 2023, supported by all regions and major trade lanes. Airlines from Asia Pacific and Europe recorded the highest growth rates, putting an end to the Middle Eastern carriers' seven-month run in topping the region's annual expansions, he added.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

❖ In April, the PMIs for global manufacturing output and new export orders turned positive. This is the first time in two years that the new export orders PMI has been in growth trajectory.

❖ Industrial production increased by 1.6 per cent in March year-on-year, while global cross-border trade contracted by 0.8 per cent.

❖ Inflation remained relatively stable across the USA, European Union, and Japan in April with rates at 3.4, 2.6, and 2.5 per cent, respectively. China reported a 0.2 per cent increase in consumer prices YoY—a positive signal amid concerns over economic slowdown in China.



Emirates SkyCargo marks decade of dual airport operations

Our fleet of trucks serve as a rolling conveyor between Dubai World Central and belly operations at Dubai airport. Since May 2014, the carrier's trucks shifted as many as 2.16 million tonnes of cargo between the twin airports, says **Robert Fordree, Senior Vice President, Cargo Operations Worldwide.**

CT Bureau

Emirates SkyCargo is celebrating a decade of dual airport operations, made possible by the airline's robust trucking fleet and bonded corridor. Traversing the 77-km-long distance between Dubai World Central and Dubai International Airport, the airline established the bonded trucking corridor to offer customers a five-hour air-to-air transfer service.

Comprising more than 60 trucks and operating 24x7, the fleet serves as a rolling conveyor between the dedicated freighter operations at Dubai World Central and belly hold operations at Dubai International Airport. Since May 2014, Emirates SkyCargo trucks have transferred more than 2.16 million tonnes of cargo between the airports in 640,000 trips.

"Establishing an effective trucking service has been essential to the success of our dual airport hub, enabling us to move our shipments without compromise. Over the past decade, we have reinforced the service, of-



Robert Fordree
Senior VP, Cargo Operations
Worldwide, Emirates SkyCargo

fering one of the most competitive air-to-air transfer times of five hours, coupled with fit-for-purpose solutions to keep goods flowing reliably across the world. We will continue to develop our multimodal offering and integrate Dubai's world-class infrastructure into our operations, strengthening the city's position as a leading logistics hub," Robert Fordree, Senior Vice President, Cargo Operations Worldwide, Emirates SkyCargo, said.

Offering customers choice and flexibility with their international shipping, the carrier's truck fleet includes flatbeds, temperature-controlled refrigerated units, dry box roller beds and reefers to provide fit-for-purpose attention for goods in transit.



Maintained and operated by Allied Transport Company, the fleet has travelled more than 62 million miles in the past decade, equivalent of 81 trips to the moon and back.

Other than shuttling cargo between the two airports, Emirates SkyCargo also introduced a road feeder service, extending connectivity for regional airports via land. Since 2020, Emirates SkyCargo has seen significant transit traffic from the GCC markets such as in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Kingdom of Bahrain for oversized and heavy cargo.

Dubai is a major trade gateway with an advantageous connectivity for air, land, and sea cargo and serves as a bridge between the East and West. Guid-

ed by Dubai's Economic Agenda, D33, which defines the city's vision of becoming a prominent economic hub, Emirates SkyCargo

“We will develop our multimodal offering and integrate Dubai's world-class infra into our operations.”

works in order to improve trade movement and generates new, reciprocal business opportunities that help strengthen the international economies. 🇦🇪



More belly across Etihad Cargo's network in summer schedule

The airline will increase frequencies and belly capacity to Middle Eastern destinations by 32 flights per week. The carrier launched a fourth USA gateway in March 2024, offering belly capacity to Boston through four weekly flights. This apart, it has also launched three passenger flights to Al-Qassim in KSA.



CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, will provide more belly hold capacity across its global network starting June 2024. During the summer schedule, the carrier will introduce 23 passenger flights to new destinations and increase passenger flights to existing routes by 77 per week, totaling 100 new weekly passenger flights.

Etihad Cargo will more belly hold cargo capacity to Spain, Greece, and France and launch a new route to Turkey. From June 2, forwarders can book capacity on three weekly passenger flights to Malaga and two flights per week to Nice. In addition to increasing the flights to Athens to 14 per week, two flights to Greece's capital will operate via Mykonos, and two flights will operate via Santorini. The airline will launch a new route to Antalya via three weekly flights, increasing weekly



Stanislaus Brun
Vice President
Etihad Cargo

flights to Istanbul from 10 to 14 from July 22.

Etihad Cargo's customers will benefit from increased capacity for Dublin, with three more flights being offered from July 23, bringing the total flights to the Republic of Ireland's capital to 10 per week.

In addition to three passenger flights to Al-Qassim in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a new destination for the carrier, the airline will increase

frequencies to Middle Eastern destinations by 32 flights per week. This includes seven more flights to Amman, bringing the total to 14 per week.

Apart from seven more flights to Kuwait, bringing the total to 28 per week, two more were launched to Bahrain, Beirut and Muscat, five more to Doha, and, by mid-July, flights to Cairo increased to 28 per week.

Strengthening its commitment to the Asian market, the airline will launch a new route via four weekly flights to Bali. Additional belly capacity will be offered via an extra weekly flight to Bangkok, bringing the total to 18, 11 more to Colombo, bringing the total to 27, three more to Karachi, bringing the total to 17, and four more to Seoul, bringing the total to 11.

"With the launch of its summer schedule, Etihad Cargo will deliver benefits to its partners, thanks to our

additional belly capacity and enhanced connectivity to key markets. The expansion of the airline's passenger network, in combination with Etihad

“Etihad Cargo's regular and charter freighter services will increase capacity across Europe, the Middle East and Asia.”

Cargo's regular and charter freighter services, will increase capacity across Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Introducing new routes and increased frequencies will reinforce connections between Abu Dhabi and major global markets to meet growing demand for capacity," Stanislaus Brun, Vice President Etihad Cargo, said. 🇸🇦

KSA's Al Tanfeethi unveils agreement with Menzies Aviation

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Al Tanfeethi, manages and operates more than 27 terminals across the country's airports. It will in return give access to Menzies' Pearl customers to exclusive benefits and VIP travel. Our pact with Menzies Aviation will meet the aspirations of our guests" says Gelban bin Mohammed Al Gelban, CEO, Al Tanfeethi.



CT Bureau

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's high-end travel services provider, Al Tanfeethi, has entered into a partnership agreement with British Menzies Aviation, the ground service partner to airports and airlines across the world. The partnership will provide Al Tanfeethi customers with Menzies'

The pact was declared during European Business Aviation Conference held in Geneva

newly rebranded Pearl Meet & Assist services that include concierge services, fast-track immigration, access to premium Pearl lounges and dedicated check-ins in addition to others.

Al Tanfeethi, which manages and operates more than



The agreement was signed at the recent European Business Aviation Conference & Exhibition in Geneva

27 terminals across KSA's airports, will in return give access to Menzies' Pearl customers to exclusive benefits and VIP travel experiences such as personal drivers, baggage transfer and collection, personal assistance, and private security screening. This is besides passport procedures and Luxury hospitality services.

"Our new partnership with Menzies Aviation to expand the provision of high-end services to our members internationally is a continua-

tion of our ongoing efforts to enhance our services to enrich the experiences and meet the aspirations of our guests" says, CEO of Al Tanfeethi, Gelban bin Mohammed Al Gelban.

The partnership was officially announced during the European Business Aviation Conference & Exhibition (EBACE) in Geneva. "Al Tanfeethi has a proven track record of providing world-class high-end travel services and we are thrilled to be joining forces with the

company," Hassan El Houry, Executive Chairman, Menzies Aviation, said.

"This collaboration demonstrates our unwavering commitment to providing top quality executive services across the globe," he added.

"Today's signing marks the beginning of a new collaboration to enhance the passenger experience and expand Men-

This collaboration shows our commitment to provide top quality services across the globe

zies network. We are excited to work with Al Tanfeethi and provide a global platform for its premium VIP airport and executive services," Philipp Joenig, Group CEO, Menzies Aviation, concluded.



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- + 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 secretariats 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



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K+N enhances booking efficiency with extensive cargo network

Kuehne+Nagel's reservation team will benefit from Etihad Cargo's extensive network, ensuring they can quickly book cargo space. This move is designed to offer greater transparency, efficiency, and flexibility in the booking process, says **Holger Ketz, Global Head, Air Logistics Network and Carrier Management, Kuehne+Nagel.**

CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has established a direct eBooking integration with global logistics provider, Kuehne+Nagel. This collaboration is the latest step in Etihad Cargo's digitalisation journey, streamlining the booking experience for its partners and customers and expanding its portfolio of eBooking integrations, which already includes industry leaders such as cargo, one, WebCargo, CargoWise and CargoAI.

Etihad Cargo's direct integration with Kuehne+Nagel leverages advanced web services developed by both companies, providing Kuehne+Nagel with seamless access to real-time capacity and pricing across Etihad



Holger Ketz
Global Head, Air Logistics Network
and Carrier Management,
Kuehne+Nagel

Cargo's network. This move is designed to offer greater transparency, efficiency, and flexibility in the booking process, ensuring faster and more reliable cargo services.

"Etihad Cargo's integration with Kuehne+Nagel represents another milestone in the carrier's commitment to

digital innovation and operational excellence," Stanislas Brun, Vice President, Cargo, Etihad Cargo, said.

"By providing Kuehne+Nagel with direct access to Etihad Cargo network's real-time data, this integration enhanced their ability to make informed booking decisions, streamline operations, and deliver superior service to their customers. Etihad Cargo will continue to prioritise the carrier's digital connectivity and development and ensure to keep pace with technological advancements to elevate service standards."

Kuehne+Nagel's reservation team will now benefit from real-time access to Etihad Cargo's extensive network, ensuring they can quickly and efficiently book cargo space. The integration offers Kuehne+Nagel visibil-

ity into available capacity and dynamic pricing via Etihad Cargo's Instant Offer Rate (IOR) tool, enabling swift and accurate booking decisions. By integrating with Etihad Cargo, Kuehne+Nagel can enhance their speed to market and operational efficiency, reducing the time required for bookings and improving overall service levels.

"By launching direct eBooking with Etihad Cargo, Kuehne+Nagel can offer its customers real-time access to capacity and pricing," said Holger Ketz, Global Head, Air Logistics Network and Carrier Management, Kuehne+Nagel. "This will create operational efficiencies and optimise our customers' experience." Etihad Cargo's ongoing investment in digital solutions demonstrates the carrier's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of partners and customers. 📱

QAC, MASkargo achieve operational synergies, hike cargo offerings

Qatar Airways Group and MASkargo decide to offer enhanced connectivity across global networks of both airlines via their key hubs—Hamad International Airport and Kuala Lumpur International Airport. With this business joint business agreement, the airlines will leverage their fleet capacity to increase cargo offerings.



CT Bureau

Qatar Airways Group and Malaysia Aviation Group have expanded their long-standing relationship as Oneworld partners by signing a business joint business agreement be-

With this pact, both airlines will leverage each other's network strengths and fleet capacity

tween Qatar Airways Cargo and MASkargo, the cargo airline and subsidiary of Malaysia Aviation Group, to deliver an enhanced product offering to cargo customers and help achieve operational synergies.

"Our new MoU with Malaysia Aviation Group is testament to our deepening relations with Malaysia and the integral Asia-Pacific market.

This strategic cooperation with our Oneworld partner will serve to link our freighter and belly-hold networks with our cargo product offering and capacity, allowing us to cement our relationship and foster the close links between our airlines," Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, Chief Executive, Qatar Airways Group, said.

With this agreement, both cargo airlines will leverage each other's network strengths and fleet capacity to increase cargo offerings. MASkargo customers can access the QAC network, while its customers will have access to the growing Asia-Pacific market, including new destinations and additional capacity in existing stations.

The two airlines will also be able to leverage both hubs—Hamad International Airport and Kuala Lumpur International Airport—as strategic stops to serve the combined networks. This partnership is also enabled by the planned growth of QAC handling capabilities at its new

and expanded cargo terminal in Doha.

"Expanding our partnership with QAC marks a significant milestone for MASkargo. This collaboration will not only enhance our product offering and operational capabilities but also solidify our position in the global cargo market. By leveraging each other's strengths, we are poised to deliver unparalleled service to our customers and achieve remarkable growth

together," Captain Izham Ismail, Group Managing Director, Malaysia Aviation Group, said.

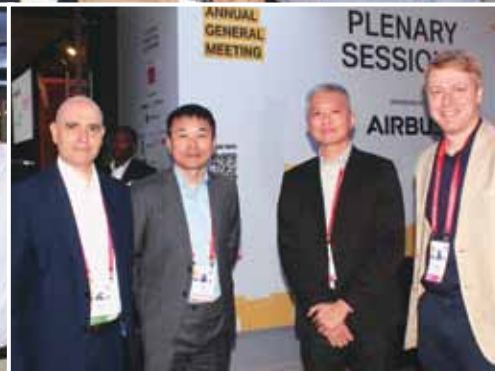
Qatar Airways and Malaysia Airlines launched their codeshare cooperation in 2004 and have expanded the partnership in recent years, which today comprises 62 codeshare destinations in Malaysia, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East, Europe, the Americas and Africa. 🇲🇾





IATA AGM confirms to deliver 62 million tonnes of cargo in 2024

IATA Annual General Meeting and World Air Transport Summit was held in Dubai from June 2 to 4 at JW Marriott Marquis Hotel. “This year we will deliver 62 million tonnes of cargo, thereby generating US\$8.3 trillion”, a clear indication of the impact of the air cargo industry, **Willie Walsh, Director General**, said, in his opening address.







Driving **double digit** cargo growth at Muscat Airport

OMAN SATS is the cargo terminal operator at Muscat airport. It provides cargo services to 30 global airlines. It is the cargo handler of Oman Air, where the company supports the airline's hub operations from its head office in Muscat, says **Siang Tang Tan**, CEO.



Siang Tang Tan
CEO
Oman SATS

Abigail Mathias

Can you tell us about the partnership with Oman Airports and its impact on air cargo?

Oman SATS is a joint venture between Oman Airports (67%) and SATS from Singapore (33%) Singapore. The JV was formed on March

31, 2016, for the company to operate at Muscat airport. As a cargo terminal operator, with the backing of the local airport authority and the industry expertise from SATS, the company lives up to its mission of serving the industry and the Sultanate of Oman. So, the company brings with it the experience and professional capability expected of an international

cargo terminal operator serving the airlines and the air freight industry operating at the Muscat airport. Its impact can be seen by the cargo growth ever since the JV started its operations in 2016 and is currently heading towards the 250,000 tonnes volume it handled pre-COVID. The annual double-digit growth comes because of the investment in training,

“An oversupply of capacity will affect profitability of the airlines as aircrafts are expensive assets to maintain.”

commitment to quality as manifested by its adherence to operational KPIs, industry quality standards and technological innovations through digitalisation. The industry thus benefitted from kept service promises (KPIs) and higher efficiencies and productivity.

What are some of the challenges you see facing the region vis-à-vis air cargo?

The need for an equilibrium in the cargo demand and supply. When air freight rate



Oman SATS



goes up because of higher demand, it has a financial impact on cargo, especially perishables. An oversupply of capacity would affect the profitability of the airlines as aircrafts are expensive assets to maintain. The issue is how to have a situation whereby it is a win-win for all stakeholders involved. Sustainable, calibrated growth for all players, perhaps could be the solution.

ESG is also a topic facing the industry—how prepared is the industry, especially in the MENA region, and how are they addressing this. We talked about a paperless digital world, but how much is the industry progressing on this? And perennial issues such as safety and security will always be there. To be fair, we have seen much improvements, but the journey is a never ending one.

How do you feel collaborations can overcome obstacles in this scenario for logistic entities?

Collaborations are a good thing, but is the trust level high enough for success? Such tie-ups call for a give-and-take mindset for the greater good, but I think most entities fear competition, loss of business, and a commercial world outside. Normally, one would see the industry leaders taking the lead, but then the smaller players may feel threatened

due to their limitations. Any such collaborations must have industry consultations, including government agencies.

What are the initiatives that Oman is taking to make itself a global cargo hub?

The Oman Civil Aviation is playing a key role with its stakeholders in formulating the air cargo strategy (Vision 2040). The government entities are in support of initiatives in making Oman an international cargo hub. I hear liberalisation of air pacts for more airlines to operate into Oman and plans to have an additional airline operator based in Oman. The Oman

airport has worked well to utilise its land bank for the Logistics Gate, and ASYAD is busy marketing its Free Zone next to the Muscat airport. I think the Oman airport is doing a solid job in attracting carriers—pax and freighters—into Oman. In Salalah, collaboration between the port and airport is a great imitative to increase volumes for ocean and air. Also, Oman SATS is providing professional cargo terminal services as expected of any global player, for airlines and the air freight industry. We have taken the leadership role in innovations and digitalisation, and our services are benchmarked against the best in the industry. We work closely with government agencies to support the industry in order to provide a conducive environment for air freight industry to thrive.

Describe the increase in numbers that have been generated because of your entry to Oman?

As mentioned earlier, we have seen double figure growth since the JV has been in operation. COVID impacted the growth, as in most industries. I am happy to say that growth is returning. But more than that, we see more products, especially perishables being exported out of Oman, more flights operating into the country, quicker cargo

delivery, shorter waiting time, and use of digitalisation. This brings about more awards and recognition from the industry.

What learnings from Singapore are you incorporating in Oman when it comes to operations?

SATS from Singapore has a presence in the industry. This and the recent acquisition of WFS has made SATS the biggest player in cargo handling. The JV has benefitted from the Singapore experience and DNA. For example, the JV uses the tried and tested CMS

Of late, we see more products, especially perishables being exported out of the Sultanate

from Singapore for its core operations. This system is used in SATS overseas operations, and the JV benefitted from the support and synergies, including the pain points from its parentage. SATS has all the while been known for its operational excellence in terms of procedures and processes as well as the quality of its operations. 🇸🇦



Oman SATS

Freight forwarders gather at AFN annual global meeting

The 7th Annual Global Meeting, Active Freight Network, took place in Dubai from May 23 to 25 at JA Ocean View Hotel. Freight forwarders from around the world got to experience the future of freight forwarding at Active Freight Network's (AFN) event. The special event for all freight forwarders will witness the participation of a host of speakers.



RwandAir's dedicated **freighter service** to Dubai, Djibouti

The expansion marks RwandAir's second cargo destination in UAE after Sharjah. The carrier has begun freighter service to Djibouti, connecting via Dubai World Central and Sharjah, expanding its network to seven destinations. Flights will operate twice a week—Mondays and Wednesdays, says **Yvonne Makolo, Chief Executive Officer**.

 CT Bureau

RwandAir Cargo has announced new services to Dubai and Djibouti, expanding its cargo network to seven destinations. The routes will be operated by the dedicated freighter B738SF.



Yvonne Makolo
Chief Executive Officer
RwandAir Cargo

The new routes will support RwandAir's continued expansion across Africa and the Middle East.

The addition of Dubai World Central Airport marks RwandAir's second cargo destination in the UAE after Sharjah. The first flight departed from Kigali on June 10, 2024. RwandAir Cargo began dedicated freighter service to Djibouti, connect-




ing via Dubai World Central and Sharjah, which took off on June 17. Flights would operate twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays.

"These added destinations will enhance trade between Rwanda, the UAE, Djibouti, and the rest of the continent. As a landlocked nation, air freight is crucial for Rwanda's economic growth. Our central location in Africa allows us to connect every part of the continent, and we eagerly anticipate expanding this connec-

“The addition of Dubai airport marks RwandAir's second cargo destination after Sharjah.”

tivity,” Yvonne Makolo, CEO, RwandAir, said, in an official statement. “Our expansion to Dubai and Djibouti strengthens RwandAir Cargo's role as

a key trade facilitator on the African continent, aligning with the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and transforming Kigali into a regional cargo hub,” Bosco Gakwaya, Director of RwandAir Cargo Services, said.

RwandAir supports the transportation of fresh produce, medical supplies, and other essentials. 



Flybotix introduces LiDar latest drone technology in Middle East

The industry for confined space inspections in the Gulf, primarily used for warehouse operations, has experienced notable expansion recently. Reports state that the global market will reach US\$2.8 billion by 2025. The ASIO X features LiDAR technology for 3D mapping and integrated AI analytics software, **Samir Bouabdallah**, CEO, Flybotix.

CT Bureau

FEDS Drone Powered Solutions has partnered with Swiss-based Flybotix to revolutionise industrial inspections in the Gulf region. This collaboration aims to provide advanced drone solutions for enhanced



Samir Bouabdallah
Chief Executive Officer
Flybotix

“I am thrilled to announce our partnership with FEDS, bringing ASIO X to the Middle East for the first time.”

safety, efficiency, and data accuracy in confined space inspections. The launch of Flybotix's latest drone, the ASIO X, into the Gulf is a key highlight of this partnership.

The ASIO X features orientable LiDAR technology for 3D mapping and integrated AI analytics software that transforms raw data into actionable insights, streamlining the inspection process. “I am thrilled to announce



Use of drones for

- ❖ **Last mile delivery:** Drones are transforming last-mile delivery. For instance, in Oman, UVL Robotics has set up a fully autonomous last-mile delivery drone system. These drones can withstand extreme temperatures and deliver packages faster than traditional couriers, reducing costs and delivery times.
- ❖ **Inventory management:** Drones are used for accurate, fast, and secure stock counts. UVL Robotics' drones fly inside warehouses, equipped with high-precision scanners, optical rangefinders, and HD cameras. The data they collect is integrated with warehouse management systems, allowing real-time monitoring of inventory progress.
- ❖ **Cold chain logistics:** Arab nations are exploring drone delivery systems for cold chain shipments. Drones can transport biological samples, diagnostic materials, urgent medical supplies, biopharmaceuticals, and temperature-sensitive pharma.

our partnership with FEDS, bringing ASIO X to the Middle East for the first time,” Samir Bouabdallah, CEO, Flybotix, said.

According to a report by MarketsandMarkets, the glob-

al market is expected to reach US\$2.8 billion by 2025, with the Middle East being one of the fastest-growing regions. In the UAE alone, drone technology use in industrial inspections has increased by 35 per cent over the past two years.

“The driving force behind this partnership is FEDS' commitment to a future-forward approach. Recognising the growing demand for indoor

Flybotix partnership introduces latest drone technology to the Middle East

confined space inspections in the Middle Eastern region, we identified Flybotix as a perfect fit to meet market requirements,” Rabi Bou Rached, CEO and Founder, FEDS, said.

This partnership is set to pave the way for enhanced confined space industrial inspections across the Gulf region, driving innovation and efficiency in the region. 🚀

Pax to freighter aircraft conversion to continue@Emirates SkyCargo

AerCap serves as the launch lessor of the programme, with Kalitta Air slated to become the first airline receiving converted freighter. Emirates SkyCargo originally announced plans for four conversions in 2024, later expanding it to 10 in collaboration with IAI, says **Yaacov Berkovitz**, VP and GM, Conversion and Upgrades, IAI.



Yaacov Berkovitz
Vice President and General
Manager, Conversion and Upgrades,
IAI

CT Bureau

Emirates SkyCargo remains committed to converting 10 777-300ER passenger aircraft into freighters, despite facing delays in the process. The conversion of these Emirates-owned aircraft by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has encountered technical delays, as highlighted in 2023-2024 financial year report of the Emirates.

"Despite the technical delays our partner is currently experiencing with the freighter conversions, we remain confident in the programme," an Emirates spokesperson said. Once converted, these freighters will offer significant operational advantages,

including larger and more flexible capacity suitable for high-volume lanes and e-commerce shipments.

"This addition to our fleet is crucial for meeting evolving customer demands," the spokesperson added. "We anticipate deploying these freighters across our network to enhance efficiency in goods transportation."

"Progress in certification testing, despite delays, is expected from the FAA by the end of the second quarter or early in the third quarter of 2024," Yaacov Berkovitz, Vice President and General Manager, Conversion and Upgrades, IAI, said. "Everything is okay, we are waiting for the green

signal from the FAA," said Berkovitz. He expected to obtain certification by the end of the second quarter or early in the third quarter.

Emirates SkyCargo had first announced plans to invest in 777-300ER conversions with IAI in 2021. The original agreement was for four conversions to be completed this year, but this was later extended to 10 conversions.

The AerCap served as the launch lessor for the programme, with Kalitta Air scheduled to become the first airline to receive the converted freighter. Emirates SkyCargo originally announced plans for four conversions in 2024, later expanding to 10 in collaboration

“Though our partner is experiencing difficulty with conversions, we are confident.”
Emirates spokesperson

with IAI since 2021. At the end of 2023-24, total freighter fleet of Emirates SkyCargo stood at 11 Boeing 777Fs. The carrier is also also awaiting the delivery of four 777-200Fs this year and one next year. Other than this, Emirates SkyCargo also has three Boeing 747Fs on wetlease to help meet air cargo demand. 🇦🇪





Abu Dhabi poised to become global pharma & life science hub

DoH, ADIO, Etihad Airways and Abu Dhabi Ports Group decided to strengthen Abu Dhabi's efforts to become a leading healthcare destination on the international healthcare landscape. A agreement to this regard was signed by the entities. It was also decided to involve local pharmaceutical and life sciences companies in the effort.

 CT Bureau

The Department of Health, the regulator of the healthcare sector in the Emirate, and Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), Etihad Airways and AD Ports Group have signed

The partnership aims to create attractive value propositions for pharma, biotechnology, and medical technology firms to operate from Abu Dhabi. By capitalising on DoH's class regulatory

framework, ADIO's investment platform, Etihad Cargo's expertise in air freight, and Abu Dhabi Port's logistics infrastructure, the collaboration is set to position Abu Dhabi as a global healthcare

and life-science distribution hub. Aligned with the Emirate's economic aspirations, the collaboration is expected to attract significant investment in healthcare and logistics, promoting sustainable

Aim is to create value proposition for pharma, biotechnology firms to operate from Abu Dhabi

an agreement to strengthen Abu Dhabi as a global pharma and life sciences distribution hub, due to its location, investment opportunities and logistics capabilities.



economic growth and diversification within the healthcare and life sciences sectors. The MoU also includes plans to support local manufacturing and packaging of pharmaceutical and biotechnology products, in addition to local capability enhancement.

His Excellency Mansoor Ibrahim Al Mansouri, Chairman, DoH, and Khalifa Al Mahmoud, International Operations, ADIO, Dr. Asma Ibrahim Al Mannaei, Executive Director, Research and Innovation Centre, DoH, Stanislas Brun, VP, Etihad Cargo, and Mansoor Al Marar, VP, Industrial Business Development, KEZAD Group, a subsidiary of AD Ports Group, signed the agreement on the backdrop of BIO International Convention held in the USA.

“We are committed to supporting Abu Dhabi’s vision of becoming a global hub for healthcare and life sciences distribution. This partnership

“The pact is a step towards ensuring access to healthcare for patients in the region.” Stanislas Brun



In line with Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030

- ❖ The partnership will leverage Abu Dhabi’s strategic location, advanced healthcare infrastructure, capabilities and investment opportunities.
- ❖ As part of the agreement, the entities will work together to ensure access to innovative healthcare products for patients across the region.
- ❖ The MoU also includes plans to support local manufacturing and packaging of pharmaceutical and biotechnology products, in addition to local capability enhancement.
- ❖ Plans are afoot to support local manufacturing and packaging of pharma and biotechnology products, in addition to local capability enhancement.

is a step towards enhancing the UAE’s importance in the global pharma supply chain and ensuring access to innovative healthcare products for patients in the region and beyond,” Stanislas Brun, Vice President, Etihad Cargo, said.

“The collaboration represents a step forward in establishing Abu Dhabi as a premier global hub for pharma and life sciences,” Mansoor Al Marar, Vice President, Industrial Business Development, KEZAD Group, said. 🇦🇪



TILOG-LOGISTIX holds soirée in Dubai ahead of August event

TILOG-LOGISTIX celebrated its meet in Dubai, jointly organised with NAFL. The event to be held in August in Thailand will see 9,000 logistics providers enhance their standards of inventory management with the latest tech in transportation, inventory management, material handling, and complete logistics-related management systems.





dnata provides industry-leading animal handling at Brussels Airport

dnata handlers are skilled in IATA's Live Animals Regulations (LAR) to ensure safe and humane animal transport. They strictly comply with Brussels Airport and the Federal Agency for Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) regulations, including a two-hour transit time limit between ACIC and aircraft, says **Stefan van Binst, MD, dnata Belgium**.

 CT Bureau

UAE-based ground handling experts, dnata, has safely transported over 6,500 live animals through its advanced Animal Care and Inspection Centre (ACIC) at Brussels Airport in 2023-24. The ACIC, a 2000m² facility, received IATA Centre



Stef Vanbinst
Managing Director
dnata Belgium

of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) in 2022 for its exceptional live animal handling processes.

The ACIC team reviews vaccination paperwork, completes IATA checklists, and performs security checks before departure. Dogs are walked into the export garden and cats provided with litter boxes, with vets on hand for any distress signs.

dnata staff are skilled in IATA's Live Animals Regulations (LAR) to ensure safe and humane animal transport. They also receive airside vehicle permits and crate-building training for larger animals. Compliance with Brussels Airport and the Federal Agency for Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) regulations is rigorous, including a

two-hour transit time limit between ACIC and aircraft.

"At Brussels, we deliver the best-in-class services, ensuring pet welfare during travel," Stef Vanbinst, Managing Director, dnata Belgium, said.

In 2023-24, dnata's ACIC handled 1,000 dogs, mostly police dogs, and imported 4,000 boxes of pet fish. Reptiles and tarantulas were safely managed. dnata's 140 professionals at Brussels airport handle 100,000 tonnes of cargo annually.

"We are proud to provide globally recognised, safe and reliable live animal handling services at Brussels, delivering best-in-class services in cooperation with our partners and authorities. We will continue to invest in our operations and world-class facilities to ensure travel comfort for the animals," Stef Vanbinst said.


As household pets arrive in the ACIC for export six to eight hours ahead of the flight's planned departure, dnata's



team begin preparations for the animal's safe transportation. The pet will then be housed in the ACIC. Dogs will be walked throughout their time in the special export garden, including before the aircraft's departure. Cats will

“We are proud to provide recognised, safe and reliable live animal handling services at Brussels Airport.”

be provided with a litter box during their stay, while awaiting departure. A vet will be on hand if any animal shows symptoms of distress, and the team members remain with the pets until loading into the aircraft is complete.

This apart, fish are also very popular visitors, with over 4,000 boxes of differing species imported. Tarantula spiders and various reptiles including lizards, snakes, and ghekkos are also delicately handled. 



LoadME's freight brokerage operations acquired by Elite Co.

The acquisition allows LoadME to focus on their core activity of developing their SaaS platform. LoadME's dedication to providing innovative and technology-driven solutions aligns perfectly with Elite Co.'s commitment to offering cutting-edge supply chain services, says **Hisham Albahar, Chief Executive Officer, Elite Co.**



Elite Co., a leading supply chain solutions provider with branches across the GCC, has announced its recent acquisition of LoadME's freight brokerage operations, a trusted web-based freight exchange service provider for the road transportation industry in the Middle East. This strate-

This move is set to enhance the efficient supply chain solutions offered to clients across the region

gic move is set to enhance the comprehensive and efficient supply chain solutions offered to clients across the region.



Hisham Albahar
CEO
Elite Co.

LoadME is known for its innovative technology in optimising the process of matching shippers with carriers. The acquisition allows LoadME to focus on their core activity of developing and growing their SaaS platform. This acquisition represents a milestone for Elite Co. and solidifies its commitment to staying at the forefront of the logistics industry. LoadME's dedication to pro-

viding innovative and technology-driven solutions aligns perfectly with Elite Co.'s commitment to offering cutting-edge supply chain services.

"We are delighted to welcome LoadME into the Elite Co. family. This acquisition is not just about expanding our business and upholding the service excellence that LoadME has established via their SaaS platform," Hisham Albahar, CEO, Elite Co., said.

"Our valued customers can expect an even higher level of service as Elite Co. takes the helm in maintaining the service excellence," Sebastian Stefan, Founder, LoadME, said.

Elite Co.'s acquisition of LoadME's freight brokerage operations demonstrates their commitment to continuous growth and innovation. The integration of these two industry leaders will undoubt-

"We are delighted to uphold the service excellence that LoadME has set up through SaaS platform."

edly reinforce Elite Co.'s market position as the go-to supply chain solutions provider in the GCC.

By leveraging advanced algorithms and real-time data, LoadME simplifies the process of matching shippers with carriers, resulting in improved efficiency and reduced costs. With an unwavering focus on customer satisfaction, LoadME has garnered a reputation for its exceptional service and commitment to excellence. 🚚





DHL Express expands MENA logistics hub at Bahrain airport

Spanning 54,000 square metres, the new facilities accommodate 12 DHL aircraft and process more than 2 million shipments per annum. The expansion underscores DHL Express's commitment to Bahrain, where it has operated for five decades, says **Nour Suliman**, CEO, DHL Express MENA.

CT Bureau

DHL Express has expanded its MENA logistics hub at Bahrain International Airport with a US\$218-million investment. This milestone reinforces Bahrain's status as a regional logistics gateway.

The project supports the Kingdom of Bahrain's logistics sector, a vital contributor to the economic growth agenda led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, inaugurated the facility, highlighting the project's significance in enhancing the Kingdom's economic competitiveness. He was accompanied by key figures including John Pearson, CEO, DHL Express, and



Nour Suliman
CEO
DHL Express MENA

Nour Suliman, CEO, DHL Express MENA.

Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi, Minister of Transportation and Communications; Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce; and Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, President of Customs, were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Spanning 54,000 square metres, the new facilities accommodate 12 DHL aircraft and can process more than 2

million shipments annually. Shaikh Salman toured the new facilities, where he was briefed on the expansion's objectives and the latest services offered by DHL Express.

"This expansion demonstrates our unwavering confidence in the local and regional markets," Nour Suliman said. "We are committed to offering cutting-edge logistics

The Minister also lauded the project's importance and emphasising the Kingdom's commitment in supporting the logistics sector. The sector, he said, plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth and enhancing the Kingdom's competitiveness on both regional and international fronts.

He further highlighted the sector's significance in contributing to the development agenda led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

“The facilities can accommodate 12 DHL aircraft and can process over 2 million shipments annually.”

solutions that empower businesses to thrive globally,” he added. The expansion underscores DHL Express's long-standing commitment to Bahrain, where it has operated for nearly five decades.

Nour Suliman, CEO of DHL Express MENA, described the expansion as one of the company's most substantial recent investments, underscoring DHL Express's confidence in the local and regional markets, as well as its commitment to offer cutting-edge logistics solutions that empower businesses to thrive in the global arena. 🇦🇪



Targeting to cut emissions, RTA launches LLTA 2030

Seventeen projects were designed to boost competitiveness through digital markets and platforms. This initiative aims to leverage data and technology to support high-potential companies, says **Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman, RTA.**

CT Bureau

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched Dubai Commercial and Logistics Land Transport Strategy (LLTA) 2030, targeting doubling of land transport and logistics sector's economic contribution to AED 16.8 billion (US\$4.5 billion).

"Seventeen projects were designed to boost competitiveness through digital markets and platforms. This initiative aims to leverage data and technology to support high-potential companies," Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman, RTA, said. The strategy will promote modern vehicle operations and adoption of future technologies.

Key projects include developing digital platforms for commercial transport, value-added permits, heavy freight services, monitoring driver behaviour, and fleet updates.

“This initiative aims to leverage data and technology to support high-potential companies.”

The plan stresses regulatory improvements, investment opportunities. Environmental goals include a 30 per cent reduction in emissions, 75

per cent increase in technology adoption, and 10 per cent boost in operational efficiency. "We aim to upgrade fleets to zero-emission, improve driver behaviour, and support SMEs with affordable technologies," Al Tayer added.

"The strategy contributes to achieving RTA's goals by removing barriers to doing business and simplifying regulations. These include upgrading the fleet to zero-emission vehicles, improving driver behaviour and vehicle performance by raising the operational efficiency, supporting SMEs in the market, providing affordable technologies, and enhancing the sector's readiness to adopt new ones for future modes of transport," he added.



Mattar Al Tayer
Director General and Chairman
RTA

The Dubai Executive Council, chaired by His Royal Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, has approved the strategy.

Dubai's position as a logistics hub for shipping and distribution, has contributed to this growth. "There are 351,000 commercial vehicles and 9,699 firms in this sector. The commercial transport witnessed growth of 34 per cent CAGR in the past five years," he said. "The goal is to double the direct contribution of land transport and logistics sector to the emirate's economy to AED16.8 billion." 📈

Global food import cargo bill set to hit over US\$2 trillion: FAO

The new edition of the FAO report has a special chapter on the dynamic effects of shocks to shipping costs on the food import bill—a topical variable given conflict-derived volatility on the Black Sea and Red Sea shipping routes and because of drought impacts on the Panama Canal.

CT Bureau

As cargo volumes seemingly rise in most parts of the Middle East, supplies of most of the world's major food commodities are expected to be adequate in 2024-25.

Geopolitical tensions, policy changes and other factors could all tip demand-supply balances

Extreme weather, rising geopolitical tensions, sudden policy changes and other factors could all potentially tip the delicate global demand-supply balances and impact prices and international food security, according to a new report from the Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Those projections are driven by relatively favourable macroeconomic conditions, including steady international economic growth, and lower food commodity prices. The new edition of the FAO report has a special chapter on the dynamic effects of shocks to shipping costs on the food import bill—a topical variable given conflict-derived volatility on the Black Sea and Red Sea shipping routes and due to drought impacts on the Panama Canal.

The latest FAO Food Outlook, which is a biannual publication, offers updated forecasts for the production, trade, utilisation and stocks of major food staples. On the production side, the international outputs of rice and oilseeds are expected to be at record levels, while those of wheat and maize will likely decline modestly.



The Food Outlook further provides a detailed market assessment for wheat, coarse grains, rice, oilcrops, sugar, meat, dairy products and fisheries.

The FAO Outlook also provides the organisation's preliminary estimates for the international food import bill in this year, which is forecast to increase by 2.5 per cent to exceed US\$2 trillion. Those projections are driven by rela-

tively favourable macroeconomic conditions, including steady international economic growth, and lower food commodity prices.

The latest FAO Outlook released recently also shows that in April 2024, the prices of fertilizer as presented by a basket of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium prices, averaged US\$327 per tonne as compared to US\$815 in April 2022. With the decline in prices, fertilizer trade volumes have rebounded with nitrogen trade close to its 2021 level.



KEY FEATURES

- Overall, the short-term outlook for fertilizers suggests stability over the next six months, according to FAO, with improved availability and affordability across the three main ingredients.
- Future shocks to global fertilizer markets are likely to be determined by developments in energy markets due to geopolitical or other causes.

Suplai teams up with AstroLabs to revolutionise KSA freight industry

Suplai has partnered with AstroLabs to launch in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The launch, scheduled for the third quarter of 2024, aims to set up partnerships with key industry leaders to transform the Kingdom's freight sector and



drive its digital evolution. This expansion aligns with its goals of enhancing logistical efficiency and reducing the emissions within the industry, in support of Saudi Vision 2030. "Our commitment to digital transformation will unlock the potential of cargo waste, paving the way for a greener future," Azmi Negro, CEO and Founder, Suplai.

Etihad Rail, CSP Abu Dhabi CFS partner to boost UAE logistics

Etihad Rail has signed a MoU with COSCO SHIPPING Ports Abu Dhabi Container Freight Station (CSP AD CFS) to enhance logistics and linkage across the UAE, improving supply chain efficiency and expanding services within the



UAE and the GCC region. CSP AD CFS will use the UAE National Railway Network to ferry goods between Khalifa Port and logistics hubs and industrial zones, Gunther J. Ferk, CEO, Etihad Rail Freight, said. The Rail Network aims to cut emissions in road transport by 21 per cent annually.

First unmanned air taxi trial in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by logistics firm

Front End, a key player in integrating advanced technology across sectors, enabled the successful demonstration of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's first unmanned air taxi trial in Mecca, in partnership with EHang. The trial marks a significant step toward smart mobility solutions in the Kingdom. His Excellency Abdulaziz Al-Duailej, President, General Authority of Civil Aviation, emphasised, "The trial represents a major advancement in integrating Advanced Air Mobility solutions into the Kingdom's aviation landscape. We are committed to the highest safety standards and seamless integration into



existing air traffic systems." The demonstration aims to streamline transportation during the annual Hajj pilgrimage. "This debut flight of the EH216-S pilotless eVTOL in Saudi Arabia marks a significant milestone in EHang's

ongoing internationalization," Huazhi Hu, Founder and CEO of EHang, added. The trial is supported by the GACA, along with the Ministry of Transport and Logistics Services, Ministry of Hajj, and Ministry of Interior.

Saudi air cargo records 20% growth



In the Q1 of 2024, Saudia Cargo reported a remarkable 20 per cent increase in cargo volume, reflecting the industry's robust de-

mand. This growth is not merely a coincidence, but a result of deliberate efforts and strategic initiatives to enhance the Kingdom's

position as a leading logistics hub. The KSA's location is at the crossroads of three continents—Asia, Africa, and Europe.

It lends KSA an advantage in the logistics landscape. The KSA has leveraged this geographic positioning by implementing strategies to boost its air cargo capabilities. Central to these efforts is the Saudi Aviation Strategy, part of Vision 2030.

EMX joins General Consulate of Jordan to streamline consular services

EMX, the Courier, Express, and Parcel (CEP) branch of '7X', has forged a partnership with the General Consulate of Jordan in Dubai. "The aim is to enhance consular services, particularly focusing on the newly introduced attestation services, enabling Jordanian residents to seamlessly request attestation of personal and commercial documents online. EMX will manage the entire process, from document pickup to attestation and delivery," His Excellency Abdulla Mohammed Alashram, Group CEO, '7X'.

"Our partnership with the General Consulate of Jordan in Dubai marks a significant step

towards enhancing the delivery of consular services," he added. The agreement was signed by His Excellency Asem Ababneh, the Consul General of Jordan in

Dubai and the Northern Emirates, and His Excellency Abdulla Mohammed Alashram, took place at the General Consulate of Jordan in Dubai.



FedEx completes first flight to UK's Teesside International

UK's Teesside International Airport has welcomed its first FedEx flight after signing a five-year deal for an airfreight handling facility. The first flight of the new partnership was carried out by a Boeing 737-400 (OE-IAE) and arrived at Teesside from Edinburgh Airport recently. "It is always a joy to see the first plane land at a new site. Teesside airport was chosen because it provides access to Yorkshire and the Northeast and we are seeing increased import and export demand from customers in this region, as businesses in this area continue to grow in number and strength," Alun Cornish, MD, Ramp and Gateways operations, Northern Europe, FedEx.



IAG Cargo expands climate focused network in Europe

IAG Cargo's facility in France at Strasbourg Airport has been approved to transport time and temperature-sensitive healthcare products, expanding the company's 'Constant Climate' global network. Strasbourg is IAG Cargo's 29th Constant Climate station in Europe. This latest certification means IAG Cargo has over 100 approved stations across six continents to serve the pharmaceutical, bioscience and healthcare industry. Last year, Constant Climate stations were added at Cape Town International Airport and Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.



Nippon Express starts new Japan-USA air freight service



Nippon Express has started a new air freight service from Chubu Centrair International Airport in Japan to Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Kentucky to serve demand in nearby Ohio. The Japanese logistics company said cargo bound for Ohio has until now been delivered via Chicago's O'Hare Airport, but it decided to utilise CVG for the new "NX-forwarding-air- Ohio Midnight Express" high-speed service to minimise delivery times. "Ohio is one of the most industrialised states in the USA, with many companies in the automotive-related and other industries operating there," stated Nippon Express.

Awery Aviation Software joins hands with GSSA & brokerage firm



Awery Aviation Software has partnered with cargo GSSA and brokerage network, NAV AERO to become the aviation technology platform for its members. This strategic partnership with NAV, a subdivision of the Neutral Air Partner ecosystem, will equip members with Awery's air cargo software solutions, allowing Awery to expand its global reach. NAP's membership boasts 350 air cargo specialists, spanning 150 countries. The company's subsidiary, NAV, focuses on driving quality and expertise among independent cargo GSSAs, brokers, and air cargo solution providers.

Embraer E190 passenger-to-freighter achieves FAA certification

Work on Embraer's passenger-to-freighter E190F aircraft is advancing with the successful completion of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) installation conformity. According to a social media post by USA aerospace company US Cargo Systems, the company worked with Embraer to carry out the certification process in May. "This pivotal achievement propels both Embraer and



USA Cargo Systems closer to the awaited entry into service of the e-freighter programme," USA Cargo Systems stated. "This accomplishment underscores the collaboration of both companies in altering the freighter industry. The E190F is poised to set standards in performance, and this milestone marks a crucial step in delivering these capabilities to our clients," the company added.

Air China Cargo first A330P2F takes flight

Air China Cargo has begun operations of its converted freighter. The cargo carrier carried out its first flight with its new Airbus A330 passenger to freighter (P2F) aircraft on June 3, the German conversion firm stated in a LinkedIn



post. "The first flight of the A330P2F took off a day before from Chengdu heading towards Europe, Paris and back. It will operate on this route on its new mission for air cargo during the coming weeks," said EFW, a subsidiary of ST Engineering and Airbus.

NCM gets JetBlue GSSA deal for New York



JetBlue has appointed Network Cargo Management (NCM) as its GSSA in New York. The new deal started on June 1 and sees NCM provide GSSA services at both New York JFK and Newark airports. The airline operates 1,000 flights per day, serving 100 domestic and global destinations in the Americas and Europe. The LCC operates out of six hubs, with its primary hub being New York JFK. Its fleet is made up of 250 aircraft, mainly Airbus A320 and A321s. The deal is the second US GSSA deal won by NCM over the past 12 months.

WestJet Cargo increases belly capacity to Chicago, Moncton, and Incheon

WestJet Cargo has increased its belly capacity on three new WestJet routes to Chicago, Moncton, and Incheon as part of the airline's summer schedule. "These new routes will significantly enhance our ability to serve the Canadian market by offering greater capacity and more options for our customers," Kirsten De Bruijn, Executive Vice President, WestJet Cargo, said. The Chicago route was opened for cargo sales on May 16, connecting Calgary to the USA city three times a week. The route will offer daily flights by June



Kirsten De Bruijn
Executive Vice President
WestJet Cargo

17 and will operate year-round. Operating with 737 aircraft, this route offers cargo capacities of 2.7 tonnes per flight, focusing on the transportation of perishables. This route is in addition to the weekly freighter operating to Chicago. Moncton, Canada, was opened for cargo sales in May to meet the needs of the Canadian market and will continue to operate year-round. The Calgary to Incheon route, launched on May 18, operates three days weekly with a 787 Dreamliner capable of carrying up to 20 tonnes of cargo.

MSC Air Cargo plans to add more capacity on WebCargo



MSC Air Cargo has partnered with WebCargo by Freightos, with a plan to add to its air freight

capacity to the digital firm's booking platform. On a social media post, the carrier stated the part-

nership will enable it to offer more visibility to forwarders as well as capacity booking options. "Through this partnership, we will be able to provide more visibility into our rates and contact information, and soon, we will be able to share our capacity and booking functions on the platform," MSC Air Cargo said. WebCargo has signed over 50 airlines as partners. One million digital bookings were completed on the WebCargo platform last year. MSC Air Cargo recently took delivery of its fifth freighter. It will be operated by MSC-owned Alis-Cargo Airlines. MSC Air Cargo launched operations in December 2022 and adopted Liège Airport as its European hub.

Menzies Aviation finalises acquisition stake in Groundforce Portugal

Menzies Aviation has finalised acquisition of a 50.1 per cent stake in Groundforce Portugal. This acquisition, part of Agility Global, enhances Menzies Aviation's presence in Portugal, where Groundforce manages 100,000 aircraft turns annually across five airports, Hassan El-Houry, Executive Chairman, Menzies Aviation, said.

With this acquisition, Menzies Aviation secures a 65 per cent market share in Portugal, solidifying its commitment to strengthening ground and air cargo ser-



vices in partnership with TAP, retaining 49.9 per cent stake. The acquisition, which was announced in March 2023, took over a year to

complete. Groundforce Portugal will be rebranded as Menzies Aviation and its 4,000 employees will be integrated the latter.

Movements

AIR CHARTER SERVICE

UAE



Andrew Summers joined as the Regional Director for the European offices. He has been with ACS for 18 years. In his new role, he will help the heads of operations across Europe and all three divisions—cargo, private jets and group travel.

SILK WAY WEST AIRLINES

Azerbaijan



Onno Pietersma has been appointed as the new CEO, Silk Way West Airlines. He has over 25 years of experience. In his new role, he will champion initiatives designed to enhance stability of the expanding the airlines' operations.

VIRGIN ATLANTIC CARGO

USA



Nick Diesel will join as the MD, Virgin Atlantic Cargo, effective August 4. He has been at Virgin Atlantic for nine years and was recently promoted as the VP. Diesel succeeds Phil Wardlaw, who has been directing the cargo business since 2021.

JETTAINER

Germany



Dr. Jan-Wilhelm Breithaupt has been appointed as the CEO, Jettainer. He has an experience of 20 years in the business. He held many positions in Lufthansa Group and was responsible for global customer service and handling management.

THE RHENUS GROUP

New York



Colin D'Abreo has joined as the co-VP Director, Project Logistics Global division, The Rhenus Group. In his new role, he will oversee operations not only in the Americas but also in India, China, and the Middle East and Africa (MEA).

DHL GLOBAL FORWARDING

Germany/Swiss



Markus Panhauser joined as the Chief Executive, DHL Global Forwarding Germany and Switzerland. He succeeds Tobias Schmidt, who will now be the Head, European business, DHL Global Forwarding. Panhauser joined DHL in 2020.

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