

Middle East's leading cargo monthly

November 2023

CARGO talk

Let's Keep Moving



LIFTING THE LOAD

WOMEN IN LOGISTICS



GROWING BUSINESSES. TRANSFORMING SUPPLY CHAINS.

3PL
Clearance
Freight Forwarding
Inland Transport
Warehousing
Value Added Services



PRESENCE IN 39 COUNTRIES ACROSS AMERICAS,
ASIA, AFRICA, EUROPE, AND MIDDLE EAST

Expolanka Freight Dubai LLC

Office No.108
Al Fattan Plaza Building, Al Garhoud
PO Box 28998, Dubai
United Arab Emirates

T +971 4 221 1666
F +971 4 221 1610
E are-info@efl.global

Branches in Abu Dhabi & Jebel Ali

www.efl.global

**We are your reliable, safe
and affordable Cargo partner**



(+971) 43 555 013
sales.dubai@rwandair.com



RwandAir
Fly the dream of Africa

SUBSCRIBE

to CargoTalk Middle East for FREE!

If you want to receive CargoTalk monthly please email:
uae@ddppl.com

Name | Designation | Company | Email | Mobile Number | PO Box

Or scan this QR code



Middle East's leading cargo monthly

CARGO
talk
Let's Keep Moving

www.cargotalkgcc.com

Please contact:

Editorial:

abigail@ddppl.com, +971 52 920 8678

Advertising:

rajith@ddppl.com, +971 52 920 8684 | crisna@ddppl.com, +971 55 4704 200

CONTENTS

November 2023

Middle East's leading cargo monthly
CARGO
talk
Let's Keep Moving



www.cargotalkgcc.com

PUBLISHER

SanJeet: sanjeet@sanjeet.ae

EDITORIAL TEAM

Devika Jeet
devika@ddppl.com

Nisha Verma
nisha.verma@ddppl.com

Abigail Mathias
abigail@ddppl.com

Ritika Arora Bhola
ritika.arora@ddppl.com

DESK EDITOR

WN Murthi: wn.murthi@ddppl.com

ADVERTISING TEAM

Crisna De Guzman: crisna@ddppl.com

Rajith Fernando: rajith@ddppl.com

Mobile: +971529208684

Angelito Villeza: angelito@ddppl.com

MARKETING SERVICES

Jaspreet Kaur: jaspreet.kaur@ddppl.com

DESIGN Nityanand Misra

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Anil Kharbanda

ADVERTISEMENT DESIGNER

Nitin Kumar



DURGA DAS
PUBLICATIONS
(MIDDLE EAST) FZE

UAE : Z1-02, P.O. Box 9348, Saif Zone,

Sharjah, UAE, Ph: +971 6 5528954,

Fax: +971 6 5528956

E-mail: uae@ddppl.com

CARGO Middle East is printed on behalf of

talk Durga Das Publications (Middle East) FZE

at Modest Print Pack Pvt. Ltd.,

C-52, DDA Sheds Okhla Industrial Area,

Phase-I, New Delhi-110020

6



Trailblazing women redefining the logistics landscape

12



Future proofing supply chain in the GCC

22



Seasonality lifts volumes, less bumpy road ahead

24



26% growth in total air connectivity in Middle East

26



Cultivating a culture of innovation in cargo

CARGO MIDDLE EAST is a publication of Durga Das Publications (Middle East) FZE. All information in **CARGO** MIDDLE EAST is derived from sources, which we consider reliable and a sincere effort is made to report accurate information. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. The publisher regret that he cannot accept liability for errors and omissions contained in this publication, however caused. Similarly, opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract and/or in interviews are not necessarily shared by CARGOTALK MIDDLE EAST. We wish to advise our readers that one or more recognised authorities may hold different views than those reported.

Material used in this publication is intended for information purpose only. Readers are advised to seek specific advice before acting on information contained in this publication which is provided for general use, and may not be appropriate for the readers' particular circumstances.

Contents of this publication are copyright. No part of or any part of the contents thereof may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the permission of the publication in writing. The same rule applies when there is a copyright or the article is taken from another publication. An exemption is hereby granted for the extracts used for the purpose of fair review, provided two copies of the same publication are sent to us for our records. Publications reproducing material either in part or in whole,

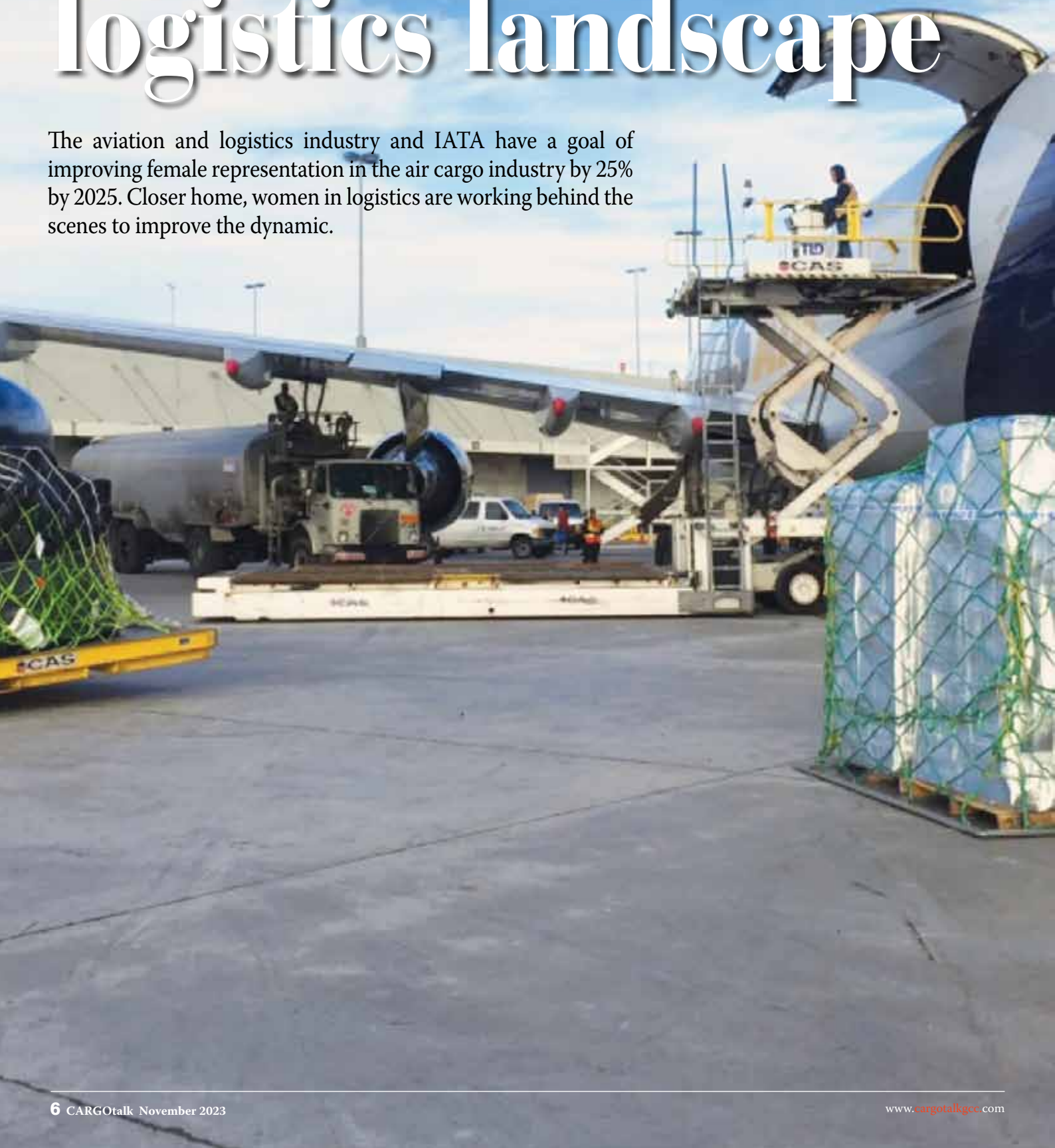
without permission could face legal action. The publisher assumes no responsibility for returning any material solicited or unsolicited nor is he responsible for material lost or damaged.

This publication is not meant to be an endorsement of any specific product or services offered. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw, amend or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation.


All advertisements must comply with the UAE and International Advertisements Code. The publisher will not be liable for any damage or loss caused by delayed publication, error or failure of an advertisement to appear.

Trailblazing women redefining the logistics landscape

The aviation and logistics industry and IATA have a goal of improving female representation in the air cargo industry by 25% by 2025. Closer home, women in logistics are working behind the scenes to improve the dynamic.





 Abigail Mathias

The aviation industry in the UAE, one that has historically been a pillar of growth for countries in the region, has not only developed into a core contributor to their economy in terms of employment, but has also helped draw tourists and business to the region.

Diversity and inclusiveness are fast becoming the focus for workforces around

the world, but one of the major industries lacking in this area is aviation. Since there is a real need for innovation and meeting the needs of one of the widest consumer bases globally, it can be imperative for the airlines to take some significant action.

With this in mind, we are going to take an in-depth look at women in the aviation industry and how things are shaping up for the future.

Women in logistics and aviation hold power of transformation. By embracing

As Co-founder and CEO of WIN Sustainably, I have seen firsthand how gender diversity in technology-based solutions such as our food apps can drive change. A balanced logistics sector benefits from varied perspectives, leading to innovative B2B and B2C solutions. Empowering one woman creates a domino effect, encouraging others to break barriers and redefine norms. It starts with us and choosing to partner with female logistic solutions such as Chilled Rides and Goods2load.



Kaoutar Makrache
Co-founder & CEO
WIN Sustainably

“By embracing leadership roles and foster mentorships, we rewrite industry narratives.”

ing leadership roles and foster mentorships, we rewrite industry narratives thanks to platforms such as Women in Aviation and Logistics along with media outlets such as **CARGO talk** playing a crucial role in championing female industry leaders.

In the logistics, supply chain, and cargo management sector, women play a pivotal role in fostering gender neutrality. They serve as beacons of inspiration, leading by example.



Jessica Panigari
Owner & Founder
Goods2load

those eager to follow in their footsteps. Through unwavering advocacy, they champion inclusivity, heralding a future

where opportunities know no gender boundaries. Tailored educational programmes and onsite work experiences equip women with the knowledge needed and concrete skills to thrive in this domain. In networks of empowerment, they forge a collective of unwavering strength,

“**Women champion inclusivity, heralding a future where opportunities know no gender boundaries.**”

where tales of triumph serve as a powerful source of motivation. Celebrating the successes of women in logistics becomes a symphony of inspiration. Collaborative partnerships amplify their voices, reshaping the industry. With courage, compassion, and resolute commitment, these women inspire and lead,

sculpting a logistics landscape that is both gender-neutral and inclusive.

Women should participate in procurement and logistics for several reasons. These industries though male dominated, the inclusion of women can bring about positive changes and empowerment in a variety of ways.

Women in procurement and logistics contribute to enhanced decision-making, cost savings, risk management, and innovation. Their presence empowers women to pursue and succeed in these sectors, fostering gender equality and diversity. Embracing diversity and gender balance in these industries can lead to stronger, more sustainable businesses and a more inclusive and equitable society.

Diverse perspectives: Women bring unique perspectives to the table, leading to a holistic decision-making. In procurement, this can mean a focus on sustainability, ethical sourcing, and diversity in suppliers, promoting responsible, and inclusive business practices.



Supriya Salve
Strategic Director
Vegat Logistics Services LLC

Improved supplier relationships: Women excel in interpersonal skills, which can be invaluable in establishing and maintaining ties with suppliers. Strong relationships can lead to better deals and smoother procurement processes.

Cost reduction: Research and development has shown that those companies with diverse procurement teams often achieve cost savings and higher profitability. Women can contribute to

innovative cost-reduction strategies and efficient supply chain management.

Risk management: Procurement and logistics involve dealing with risks and uncertainties. Many women tend to

“**Women contribute a lot to cost savings, risk management innovation, and decision-making.**”

be meticulous and detail-oriented, helping organizations manage risks effectively. This can be crucial during times of crisis or disruption.

Empowerment: As women enter these fields, they serve as role models for future generations. Seeing women succeed in procurement and logistics empowers young women to pursue careers in these industries.





Leadership opportunities: Encouraging women to participate in procurement and logistics provides them with a path to leadership roles. It promotes gender equity and ensures that women have a seat at the decision-making table.

Innovation: Diverse teams are frequently more innovative. In procurement and logistics field, this can lead to the development of newer strategies, technologies, and practices and the like that drive efficiency and competitiveness.

The Middle East has become a pivotal player in global aviation. This development is fuelled by accelerated growth in the region's civil aviation. The Middle East has steadily evolved into a center of regional cooperation and one that allows conducive business growth. The aviation industry in the region, one that has historically been a pillar of growth for several countries, has not only developed into a core contributor to the region's economy in



Dr. Suaad Al Shamsi
First female aircraft engineer-technical, advisor in UAE, Owner of Top Takeoff Programme, Dream High Program Founder of Women in Aviation, ME

terms of employment, but has also helped attract tourists and business.

HOW WOMEN FARE IN AVIATION

Since there is a need for innovation and meeting the needs of one of the widest consumer bases globally, it can be imperative for the airlines to take some action. Keeping this in

mind, we are going to take an in-depth look at women in aviation and how things are shaping up for the future. The Women in Aviation (WIA) General Assembly regularly meets its members to dis-

“As I said, if a woman can run a house, she can run a department and a company in any industry as well.”

cuss aspects of the group. The group met on 19 May 2022 at Dubai World Trade Centre. Attendees from various sectors such as engineers, aviators, managers, faculty members and CEOs were present to offer their support.

It is estimated that women make up 20 per cent of the

aviation sector and 12 per cent of them are educating themselves and will shortly join the workforce. Dr Shamsi is a personality in the GCC countries who is making rapid strides in the aviation sector.

“As one of the founding members of WAI in Middle East, my strategy is to make sure that we plan successful summits, which can support women and create a positive outcome that can help the industry as well,” she said.

Discussing the diverse roles of women in aviation, Dr. Shamsi added, “There are many uncommon roles for women in the aviation industry. My role, for example, keeps changing from a consultant and advisor. I was earlier an aircraft engineer. There are a lot of women in leading roles who are decision makers. Few people think a woman is not suitable for the aviation industry, but as I said in my address, if a woman can run a house, she can run a department and a company in any industry as well.”



Diversity, culture, equity, and inclusion are gaining importance at the workplace, especially in logistics. While progress has been made, the gender gap still exists. Empowering women in logistics is gaining momentum and for good reason.

A diverse workforce brings new perspectives and experiences, leading to innovative problem-solving. Women possess many valuable qualities, including multitasking, organization, and resilience, making them a valuable addition to the logistics sector.

To encourage women to succeed in logistics, female leaders must lead by example and extend their mission to empower women. Providing equal learning and job opportunities can help females explore their skills and strengths.

Empowering women in logistics has far-reaching benefits. It not only enhances a company's reputation and reduces turnover but also contributes to stable, better-



Dina Al Awad
Manager Operations, M&L Commercial, Milaha

educated societies. Women influence 80 per cent of all purchasing decisions worldwide, making products and services more attractive and relevant for them.

Let us work together to close the gender gap and create a diverse and inclusive logistics industry. Businesses that empower female workers, managers, and owners in their supply chains can keep

up with increasing international political and legal requirements, while increasing efficiency, productivity, and supply security.

Empowering more women in each sector of business is essential. Since the cargo industry, particularly in the

“Women have many qualities such as multitasking and resilience, making them valuable to the logistics sector.”

Middle East is male-dominated, only a small percentage of women are employed in logistics sector.

In China, for example, I have interacted with a lot of women in the logistics sector. I hope we can replicate the same

here. We have launched a beautiful initiative—Women in Logistics and Cargo—in our Women's Business Circle in the UAE's capital.



Her Excellency Laila Rahhal
President & Founder, Business Gate Goodwill Ambassador

Women can take up various managerial roles. As women are getting employed as pilots, freight operators and jobs in ground handling need to increase for them.

“As women are getting employed as pilots & freight operators, jobs in ground handling need to increase for them.”

Nadia Abdul Aziz is not just the President of the NAFL, she has also been an active voice for Women in Logistics & Transport and heads the WILAT NGO for the Middle East and is the Global Vice Chair for women in logistics and transport for over three years. Women should be empowered in the supply chain logistics industry through capacity building, certified trainings, networking events, mentoring, and coaching. She assisted in hosting CILT event in 2015 in Dubai-UAE and sponsored the ‘Inspiring Women’s Award at Burj Al Arab in 2015’.

The NAFL was the Arabian Gulf’s first national freight forwarders association. NAFL is a member of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders’ Associations, based in Zurich. The National Association of Freight and Logistics (NAFL) was founded in Dubai and remains to this day a pillar of support for SMEs.

Having been in the logistics industry for over 20 years, it is remarkable to see the roles that women have taken in this field. “I take part in Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CLIT), which focuses on women in logistics and transport,” she said.

Logistics sector contributes 14 per cent of its GDP and if we include all service providers and modes of transport, it is an industry with the largest human capital. The past half-century has seen a global increase in the level of female participation in the workforce, with developing countries seeing more than half of women of working age employed.

The increase is evident in the industry, which has posted



Nadia Abdul Aziz
President
NAFL

growth in the past 20 years. The industry needs women in leadership positions where they can be role models and inspire the next generation to follow in their footsteps.

Although the logistics industry is a growing one and has opportunities for advancement, there are not many women who join it. While the demand for qualified personnel exceeds the supply in the logistics and supply chain sector, it has

become imperative to attract and include women as they are good at multitasking, an ability that enables them to handle myriad of tasks.

“The industry needs women in leadership positions where they can be role models for the next generation.”

These include planning, implementing, and controlling the flow and storage of goods in the supply chain. “My advice to women is to work hard and be consistent when you are committed to your career. Employers always look for qualified trainees,” she added.

FACTFILE

- it is essential to employ women in logistics sector especially as they are excellent at multitasking.



Future proofing supply

Positioned between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the UAE, logistics and procurement industry in the Middle East are growing at rapid rate. Air transport industry handles 1.25 million dangerous goods shipments per year, which is one of the many complexities of industry.



chain in the GCC



Blockchain in logistics and air freight management sectors is an innovation that will revolutionize our industry. The Middle East, with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) leading the pack, stands on the brink of this transformative shift.



Rohit Thakwani
CEO
Airglow Aviation

While the UAE government promotes Blockchain technology across diverse sectors for heightened efficiency and modernization, its potential in logistics beckons exploration.



Central to this vision is Blockchain's transparency, establishing trust in an area marked by its intricate trade dynamics. Married with Internet of Things, Blockchain ushers in real-time tracking, refining inventory processes and route optimization.

Smart contracts promise to eradicate traditional bureaucratic barriers, offering a streamlined operation. In an era emphasizing ethical sourcing and sustainability, Blockchain emerges as

“ Guided by UAE government’s vision, Blockchain has the power to reshape the logistics sector in the Middle East, reinforcing its vital role in global trade.”

the hero, affirming verifiable product origins and advocating responsible trade. To harness this potential in logistics, regional collaboration, skill upgradation, and robust digital infrastructure are es-

sential. Guided by the UAE government’s vision and strategic application, Blockchain has the power to reshape the logistics sector in the Middle East, reinforcing its vital role in global trade.



Contd. on next page ▶



#1 Freight Forwarding IT Solution Provider



- 25+ Years of domain expertise & Delivery
- 1650+ Customers
- 55+ Countries
- 100+ Employees
- Offices @ USA, Singapore, UAE & India

- Fresa Freight Platform is highly configurable and Flexible with feature rich functionalities across Air, Ocean, Road, Rail and Multi Model Transportation.
- Fresa Application has Multi-Site, E2E and Transit Hub Functionalities with an Integrated Electronic Document Management Suite and Modern API Functionality.
- Consolidators, Freight Forwarders, Forwarding Agents, NVOCC, Couriers, Third-Party Logistics Providers, Airlines, Customs Brokers, Transport and Fleet Management Companies can take advantage of our platform.
- Fresa system is the solutions to optimize your business flow and Turn-around time to increase productivity and generate greater profits.

+971 50 1393035 / +91 93449 12004
www.fresatechnologies.com / sales@fresatechnologies.com



Thomas Schürmann
Head, Cargo Operations & Delivery,
Etihad Cargo

Adherence to Etihad Cargo's robust quality standards and the capacity to handle increased cargo volumes, while ensuring consistent service levels contributed to Etihad Cargo's decision to appoint WFS as the carrier's cargo handling partner at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. WFS currently handles around 110,000 tonnes of cargo on behalf of Etihad Cargo in the USA annually. This is anticipated to increase with the addition of Chicago airport to Etihad Cargo's network with WFS and higher volumes of the carrier's

“Etihad Cargo's handler, WFS currently handles around 110,000 tonnes of cargo on behalf of Etihad Cargo in the USA per annum.”

PharmaLife and FreshForward products being transported across Etihad Cargo's global network.

In the Middle East, as in many other parts of the world, the adoption of innovative technologies and transition to electronic documents in logistics and supply chain management can indeed revolutionize how companies operate. This transformation can bring about several key benefits:

- **Improved efficiency:** transitioning to electronic documents, such as e-AWB



and digital bills of lading, reduce paperwork and manual data entry. This streamlined approach saves time and reduces the likelihood of errors and ultimately increases efficiency in logistics operations

- **Real-time visibility:** advanced tracking and monitoring technologies, such as IoT sensors and RFID, can provide real-time visibility into the location and condition of goods in transit. This data can help firms optimize routes, reduce theft or spoilage, and better manage inventory

- **Enhanced collaboration:** digital communication and collaboration tools can connect stakeholders along the supply chain effectively. This allows for seamless coordination between suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers, resulting in faster response and reduced delays



Prashanth Balakrishnan
General Manager
Orient Cargo

- **Data analytics:** the Middle East can benefit from the integration of data analytics and Artificial Intelligence to make data-driven decisions. These technologies can help the companies forecast demand, optimize in-

ventory, and identify those areas for cost reduction and process improvement.

- **Reduced Environmental Impact:** Technology can facilitate sustainability initiatives by helping companies reduce waste and minimize the carbon footprint of their logistics

“**Adoption of innovative tech and transition to e-documents in logistics and supply chain management can rejig how companies operate.**”

operations. Optimizing routes and reducing paper usage through electronic documents can contribute to this

- **Customs and trade compliance:** the Middle East is a major hub for global trade. Implementing electronic customs documentation and trade compliance systems can expedite the movement of goods across borders and reduce the risk of errors, fines, and delays

- **e-commerce enablement:** with the growth of e-commerce in the Middle East, efficient logistics and supply chain management are crucial. Technology can help businesses meet the demands of online shoppers by enabling fast, reliable, and traceable delivery services

- **Resilience and risk mitigation:** technology can play a role in mitigating risks in logistics, such as disruptions caused by natural disasters, political instability, or crises. By using data analytics and real-time tracking, companies can proactively manage and respond to such challenges

- **Talent development:** as logistics and supply chain operations become technology-dependent, investment in training and developing a skilled workforce is vital. Upskilling employees to harness technology is crucial for successful implementation.

In summary, adoption of tech and electronic documents can revolutionize logistics and supply chain management in the Middle East by improving efficiency, increasing transparency, and providing tools for data-driven decision-making. These innovations can position firms to compete in the global marketplace and adapt to the landscape of supply chain management.

FACTFILE


- Technology can play a role in mitigating risks in logistics, such as disruptions caused by natural disasters, political instability, or global crises.



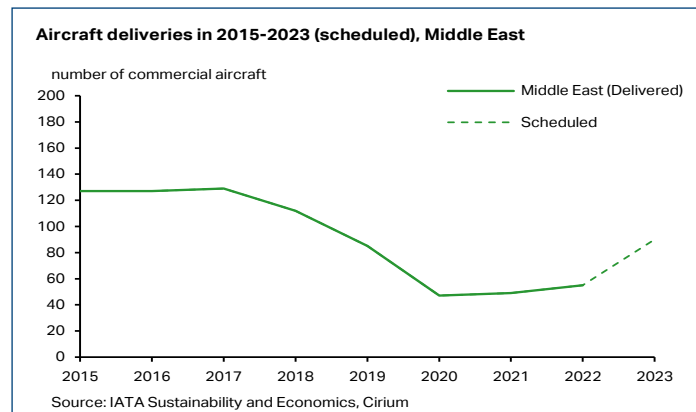


Middle East cargo traffic increases in Q2 of 2023

Air cargo capacity, measured by available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), exceeded pre-pandemic levels in Q2 2023 for the first time in three years. The annual expansion of ACTKs over Q2 was mainly driven by the restoration of passenger belly-hold capacity, as per **Quarterly Air Transport Chartbook of IATA**.

 CT Bureau

The slowdown has already manifested itself in the year-on-year contractions seen over the Q2 2023 period. Demand for air cargo fell by less in Q2 2023, measured by cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), despite being 3.4 per cent below the level seen in June 2022. CTKs year-to-date (YTD) ending June reached 115.8 billion and the gap with the 2022 YTD CTK



level narrowed down to 11.2 per cent at the end of Q1 to 8.1 per cent at the end of Q2.

As per IATA Quarterly Air Transport Chartbook for Q2 2023, airlines in the Middle East also outperformed their January 2020 international CTK levels in June. “In contrast, international CTKs for airlines in Europe remained 9 per cent below the January 2020 level in June,” said Willie Walsh, Director General,



CAPACITY GROWTH IN THE ME

According to IATA's report, air cargo capacity, measured by available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), exceeded pre-pandemic levels in Q2 2023 for the first time in three years. "The strong annual expansion of ACTKs over the second quarter was mainly driven by the restoration of passenger belly-hold capacity. In response to the weak air cargo demand, airlines added less dedicated cargo capacity in June. However, at 264.7 billion, YTD ACTKs through the end of Q2 have already surpassed their 2022 levels for the same period by 9.9 per cent" he added.

Total international capacity (dedicated freighters and belly capacity) continued to trend towards their pre-pandemic 50:50 balanced

shares over Q2 2023. Also, notably, there were no passenger freighters (also known as preighters) scheduled in Q2 globally for the first time in two-and-a-half years, after these having played an essential role during the pandemic.

Cargo activity in airlines in the Middle East decreased in the Q2 of 2023 by 3.1 per cent compared to the same period last year. This was still an improvement of 8.1 per cent YoY in the first quarter of 2023. Compared to 2019, Q2 cargo activity was flat. Middle East carriers have, however, demonstrated better cargo activity in the second quarter compared to the global activity, which was 5.0 per cent and 4.8 per cent below 2022 and 2019 levels, respectively, Walsh said.

Aircraft deliveries in the Middle East maintained an

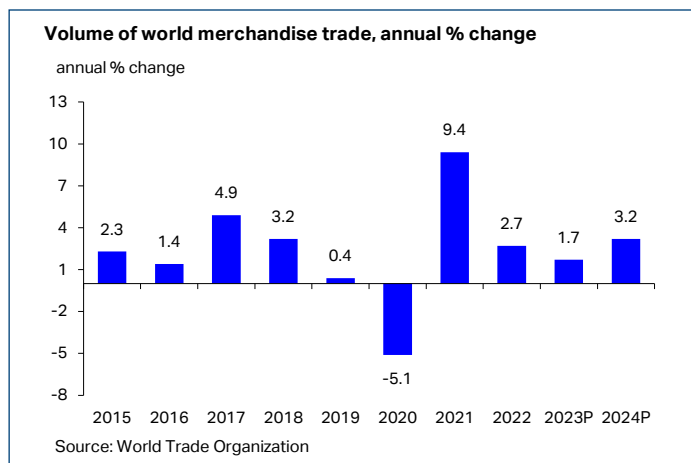


Willie Walsh
Director General
IATA

“The annual expansion of ACTKs over the Q2 of 2023 was driven by the restoration of belly-hold capacity.”

upward trajectory since the lows of 2020. Deliveries this year are 42. Scheduled to be received by this year-end, the aircraft deliveries are set to increase by 50 per cent over and the last year numbers, he added. With 90 aircraft

IATA. Airlines in APAC performed slightly better, but registered international CTAs below 5 per cent of the January 2020 level. At the industry level, international CTAs in June were 2 per cent lower than in January 2020.





AIR CARGO TRENDS IN THE ME

According to the IATA report, cargo activity for the Middle East airlines decreased in the second quarter of 2023 by 3.1 per cent compared to the same period last year. This was still an improvement relative to the 8.1 per cent year-on-year drop in the first quarter of 2023.

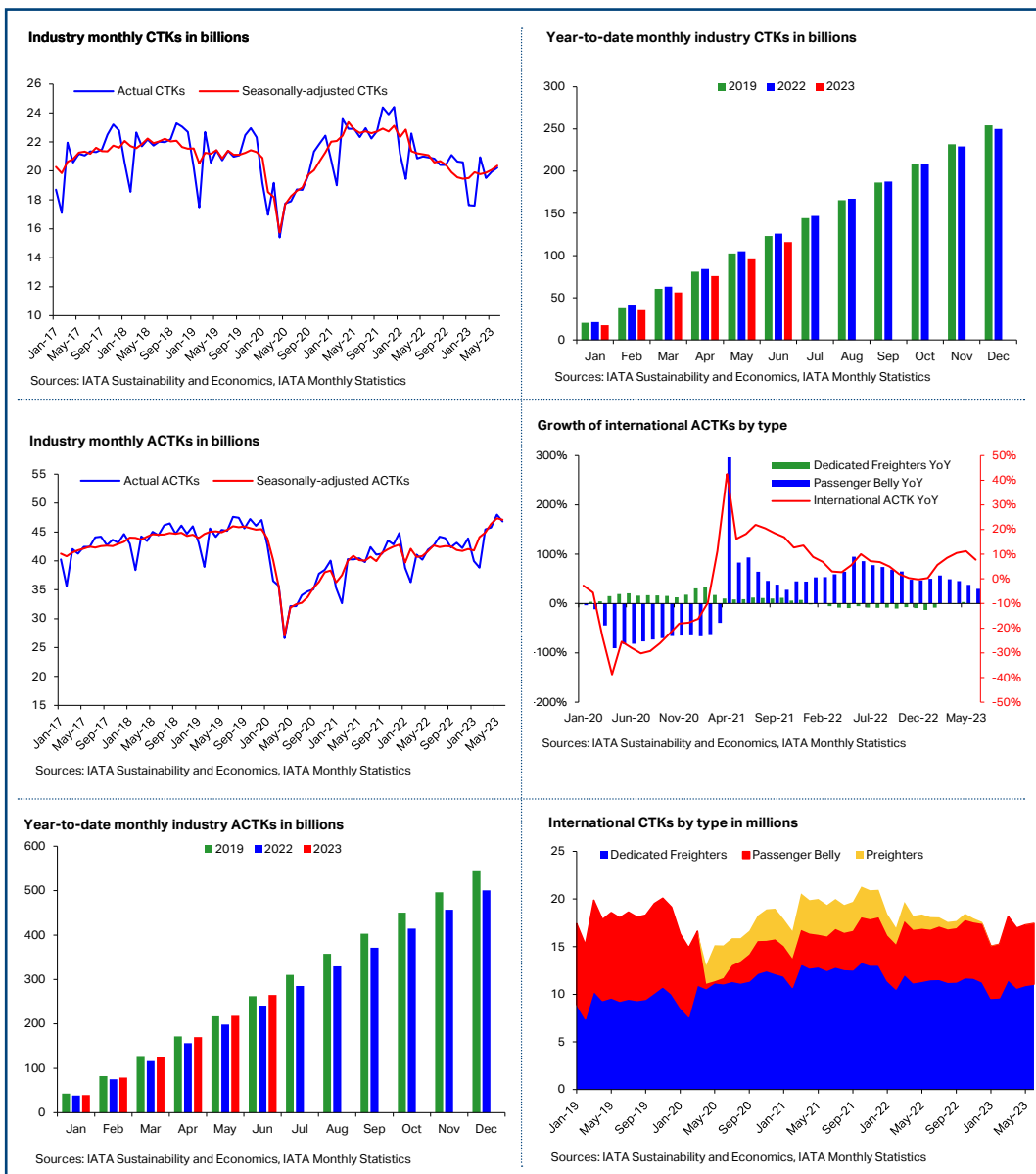
Compared to 2019, second quarter cargo activity was flat. The Middle East carriers have demonstrated better cargo activity in the second quarter compared to the global activity, which was 5.0 per cent and 4.8 per cent below 2022 and 2019 levels, respectively.

PARADIGM SHIFT

Aircraft deliveries in the Middle East have maintained an upward trend since the lows of 2020. Deliveries for 2023, including 42 planes, scheduled to be received by the end of the year, are set to increase by nearly 50 per cent over 2022 numbers.

With 90 aircraft in total for 2023, the Middle East aircraft deliveries are set to recover to their 2019 levels. This particular region has also seen a shift in deliveries from predominantly wide-body aircraft in 2019 to narrowbodies since 2020.

The scheduled deliveries for 2023 indicate growth in both types of aircraft, with narrowbody aircraft still accounting for most of the deliveries in the region. 🚀



in total set to delivered in 2023, the Middle East aircraft deliveries are set to recover back to their 2019 levels. This region has seen a shift in aircraft deliveries from predominantly wide-body

aircraft in 2019 to narrow-body aircraft since the past three years.

The scheduled deliveries for this year indicate growth in both types of aircraft, with

narrowbodies still accounting for most of the deliveries in the region. Annual growth in the world merchandise trade is likely to slow down to 1.7 per cent in 2023, from 2.7 per cent in 2024.



The Chartered
Institute of Logistics
and Transport



WingsWay
Training Institute

**BECOME AN
EXPERT IN**

2

MONTHS

EMPOWER YOURSELF FOR CAREER GROWTH

JOIN OUR

International Certificate & Diploma Courses.

- ✔ International Introductory Certification in Logistics & transport
- ✔ International Certification In Logistics And Transport
- ✔ International Diploma In Logistics And Transport
- ✔ International Advance Diploma In Logistics And Transport
- ✔ Cargo Introductory & Advanced Courses
- ✔ **Many More Courses in Aviation, Airports,
Travel & Tourism**



**SPECIAL
OFFER**

**25%
OFF**

*Valid till 31st DEC 2023

CONTACT US NOW

+971 50 906 2124, +971 50 906 1178

information@wingsway.org

www.wingswaytraining.com



Seasonality lifts volumes, less bumpy road ahead

Air cargo volumes for September are on par with the same period last year but cargo capacity, on the other hand, grew at its slowest in the past 11 months. The cargo market is entering a new phase where the parties are not expecting it to go much higher or lower, says **Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer, Xeneta.**

 CT Bureau

Increasing the confidence of freight forwarders in a stable global air cargo market led to a higher commitment to longer-term freight contracts in September as a drop in cargo capacity and traditional month-over-month seasonality pushed volumes up 6 per cent, according to the latest weekly performance data from CLIVE Data Services, part of Xeneta.

The number of shippers committing to air freight contracts of more than six months in Q3 2023 rose to 34 per cent from 28 per cent in the previous three months, the data stated, as the air cargo industry comes to terms with a new baseline for the general air cargo market.

“This is not a peak season, it is a sign that the airlines, freight forwarders, and shippers are finding more

common ground to reach longer-term agreements. We previously referenced no macro and market currents to support an expectation of a peak season, and this is still the case. We have also said if there was to be an uptick in rates, we would expect this to be driven by the supply side than the demand side, and this still holds true. The general air cargo market is entering a new phase where the parties are not expecting the market

to go much higher or lower. It is finding its feet again. We see more longer-term contracts being signed, and this only happens when the people feel more comfortable about the now and the foreseeable future. It is easier to make a commitment now than when the air freight market is on a sharp downward or upward trajectory. There is a firmer floor in place,” said Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer, Xeneta.



month. This upward trend in air cargo continued in the week ending 1 October 2023 as the average international air cargo spot rate increased more than 10 per cent from three weeks ago.

September air cargo volumes were on par with the same period last year, but the global air cargo capacity, on the other hand, grew at its slowest in the past 11 months. It ticked up 5 per cent from a year ago, but adjusted down slightly compared to a month ago as the passenger belly capacity began to gradually ease out of the market as summer travels in the Northern hemisphere cooled down.

Niall van de Wouw added, "The air cargo market is still muted and has been flat at a global level now for three months in a row. September produced no surprises, with seasonality pushing up demand over what we saw in August, and we would expect a similar trend in October with less capacity flying around. In my conversations with shippers, forwarders, and airlines, I still hear little hope of demand growth before third quarter of 2024 and for that to happen, we need to see stronger consumer confidence and economic activity."

As cargo capacity demand and supply continued to rebal-



Niall van de Wouw
Chief Airfreight Officer
Xeneta

ance, the global dynamic load factor, which measures cargo load factor based on both volume and weight perspectives of cargo flown and capacity available, grew to 58 per cent in September, up 2 per cent points from a month ago.

However, the load factor stayed below last year's level by 2 per cent points. Looking at regional lanes in September, air cargo spot rates on most top trade corridors head north in September. With cargo rushing out of China ahead of the Golden Week holidays from 1 October, China to Europe cargo spot rates grew more than 11 per cent from a month ago to US\$ 3.19 per kg in September.

Similarly, China to USA spot rate rose more than 9 per cent to US\$ 3.63 per kg month-over-month. Staying in the region, Southeast Asia to Europe and to the USA spot rates grew considerably by more than 22 per cent month-over-month (to US\$ 2.29 per kg) and 16 per cent (to US\$ 3.14 per kg), re-

“ This is not a peak season, it is a sign that airlines, freight forwarders, and shippers are finding more common ground to reach longer-term agreements.”

spectively. Within the region, Vietnam spot rates to Europe and the USA rocketed more than 54 per cent and 32 per cent to US\$ 3.00 per kg and US\$ 3.70 per kg, respectively. These higher growth ratios were partially due to the rates growing from a lower base and, on these trades, returning the air cargo spot rates to the pre-pandemic levels seen earlier this year. 🇸🇦

The international general air cargo spot rate edged up over 2 per cent month-over-month to US\$ 2.23 per kg in September, with the growth, especially accelerating towards the end of the





26% growth in total air connectivity in Middle East

The Middle East stands out with growth of 26% in total connectivity, while Asia-Pacific's air connectivity declined by -38%. As many as 100 airports in Asia-Pacific and Middle East in 2022 versus post-pandemic were covered in the study, as per **The Airport Connectivity Report of Airports Council International**.

 CT Bureau

The Airports Council International (ACI) APAC and Middle East announced the Airport Connectivity Report (ACR) at the launch of its Middle East office in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The report reveals that air con-

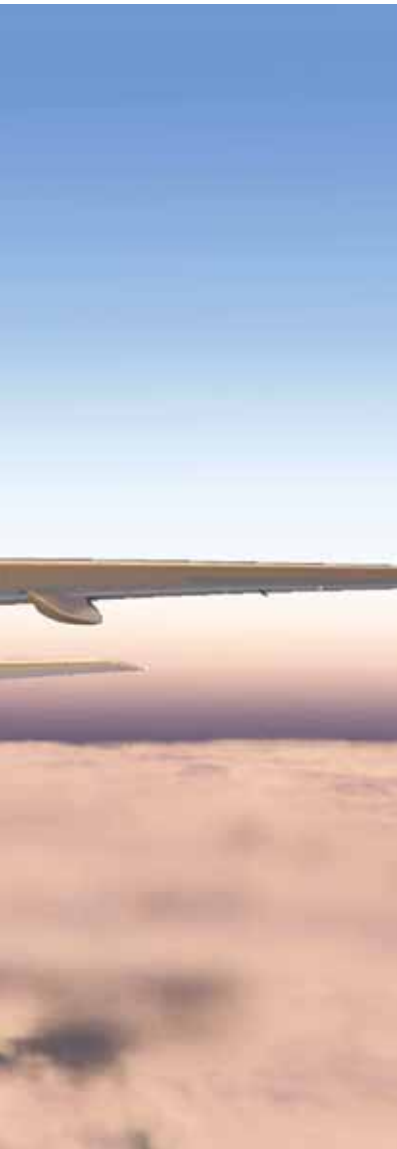
nectivity in the Middle East stands out with an increase of 26 per cent in total air connectivity in the year 2022 versus 2019, with direct connectivity to destinations in North America, APAC and Africa witnessing the strongest recovery post COVID and low-cost carriers (LCCs) also driving the growth.

Also, Asia-Pacific (APAC) has seen a decline in air connectivity by -38 per cent during the same period. The report covers a sample of 100 airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East in 2019.

Developed in partnership with PwC, the report measures passengers' ability to ac-

cess the global air transport network, capturing both direct and indirect routes, and factoring in the quality of service of each connection, such as destination choice, service frequency, onward connectivity among others.

Several factors contribute to the decline in air con-



fic rights, rising airfares, economic downturns.

Stefano Baronci, Director General, ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East said, “The report is an invaluable tool to the industry and policy makers for adopting the use of air connectivity indicators to for appraising the performance and sustainable development of the aviation industry.”

Air transport liberalisation: The aviation sector’s liberalisation in APAC and Middle East regions has been a boon for the sector. Singapore has been particularly active in air liberalisation, enjoying benefits such as reduced airfares and a strong passenger traffic base. This success is attributed to a high market share of foreign airlines, extensive international routes, numerous air service agreements, and a streamlined visa policy.

Recently, the ASEAN countries have emerged as the most proactive aviation bloc in promoting air liberalisation. It has been focusing on internal liberalisation among its member states and broader pacts, such as the European Union-ASEAN bloc-to-bloc initiative. However, key aviation markets such as Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines could ben-

nectivity, including extended travel curbs due to the pandemic, limitations on air traf-



Stefano Baronci
Director General
ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East

efit from the further liberalisation of the market.

INCREASING AIRFARES IMPACT

The cost of air travel from the selected APAC and Middle Eastern airports have increased by up to 50 per cent, threatening the recovery of the industry, as per recent study on airfares. Nearly 69 out of the 100 airports experienced a decrease in airfare. As measured by average airfare in relation to per-capita income, transport became 34 per cent less affordable across the regions.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Aviation plays a key role in socio-economic development

“**The cost of travel from APAC and ME airports has increased by 50 per cent, threatening the recovery of the industry.**”

by attracting foreign investment, supporting international trade and tourism, and creating jobs.

In the APAC, it contributed US\$1 trillion and employed 56 million people, while in the Middle East, the sector generated US\$260 billion and employed 4.6 million. Large margins for the increase in propensity to fly and macroeconomic factors suggest a positive outlook for connectivity. If Macao, Hong Kong, and Singapore topped in 2019, 2022 saw French Polynesia, Australia, and New Zealand, Qatar, the UAE, and Kingdom of Bahrain at the forefront. At the same time, China and India, along with fast-growing markets such as the Philippines and Vietnam, have a much lower flying propensity than Europe and North America. 🇸🇦



Cultivating a culture of inno

Digitalization and adoption of advanced tech are revolutionizing air cargo. While Etihad Cargo's fleet has expanded, the principle is to take a collaborative approach to provide solutions to the carrier's partners and customers.

CT Bureau

As the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways and the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Etihad Cargo has expanded its international network to serve more than 70 destinations since its establishment nearly 20 years ago.

While Etihad Cargo's fleet has expanded, the core principle is to take a customer-centric and collaborative approach to provide world-class air cargo solutions to the carrier's partners and customers.

With an eight-strong premium product range, Etihad Cargo tailors the products and services it provides to its customers and partners in order to maximize cargo capacity across our global network. Innovation is part of Etihad Cargo's DNA, and we



Leonard Rodrigues
Head of Revenue Management & Network Planning, Etihad Cargo

have added new features and enhanced our product range. Our unique product portfolio has enabled the carrier to offer our partners and customers a range of products that can be customized to their unique requirements.

Utilizing our dedicated freighters, wide-body and narrowbody aircraft, we understand that we have to be creative, and evaluate Etihad Cargo's fleet and network, enhance our road feeder services trucking networks, and cooperate with the interline partners so that Etihad Cargo can offer connectivity between online and offline destinations, meet the cargo capacity requirements of our customers, and remain the air cargo partner of choice.

AIR CARGO IN UAE, MIDDLE EAST

The air cargo sector is a dynamic one, and the industry is evolving at a rapid pace, especially in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The location of Abu Dhabi makes it a natural gateway between Europe, Asia, Africa and the United States of America (USA). Etihad Cargo's hub at Abu Dhabi International Airport is within



vation in cargo



“Our loyal customers are at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to remaining their air cargo partner of choice through innovation and continuous provement.”

a four-hour flight radius of approximately one-third of the world’s population, allowing quick and efficient access to these key markets.

Supported by a strong economy and trade, the modern infrastructure at the multimodal airport of Abu Dhabi, which also has a dedicated cargo terminal, has been pivotal in enhancing connectivity between the Middle East and the rest of the world. This has given Etihad Cargo a

strong foundation to build on, and we are committed to going even further.

Digitalization and an increased adoption of advanced technologies have revolutionized air cargo in this part of the world as well as internationally. Our customers are at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to remaining their air cargo partner of choice through innovation and continuous improvement.


Since embarking on our digitalization journey way back in the year 2018, we have simplified interactions with our customers, partners, and stakeholders and continue to provide them with a seamless end-to-end experience during all touchpoints throughout their cargo’s journey. We have developed an enhanced booking portal, rolled out Artificial Intelligence-powered solutions to boost capacity and also launched Sales Cockpit, a sales optimization tool, to improve the customer experience.

FACTFILE

- Digitalization and an increased adoption of advanced technologies have revolutionized air cargo in this part of the world.

Messe Frankfurt's **global** logistics show in Dubai

The logistics showcase will spotlight the future of supply chain, transportation, mobility, warehousing, and material handling on an international scale. Delegates will have the chance to hear from sustainability and green logistics experts as environmental concerns drive a shift toward greener logistics practices.

 CT Bureau

Messe Frankfurt Middle East has announced a new logistics show that will take place between 10-12 December 2024 at the Dubai World Trade Centre. The show, announced on the sidelines of Automechanika Dubai, will take place to provide natural synergies between the automotive industry and the various verticals within the logistics sector and capitalizing on the UAE's position as the epicenter of the world's logistics sector, bridging Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.



Ted Bloom
Managing Director
Messe Frankfurt Middle East

During the launch, a high-level leadership panel discussion titled 'Pioneering the Future: Driving the MEA

outlined the challenges and opportunities within the sector and highlighted the importance of a dedicated logis-

“High on the agenda will be the use of Blockchain, AI, warehouse automation, and digital supply chain platforms for visibility and efficiency.”

Transport and Logistics Sector Forward with Emerging Trends and Innovation in Logistics and Supply Chain'

tics show in filling the current gaps within the industry. Ted Bloom, Managing Director, Messe Frankfurt Middle





East, said, “We are aware of the ever-evolving landscape of logistics as it adapts to lessons learned from the pandemic and strives for efficiency, resilience, and sustainability. The show will unite the brilliant minds, innovators, and biggest sector operators in an exciting new forum to help shape the sector's future. The MEA region's logistics sector is dynamic and evolving, driven by infrastructure development, trade growth, technological advancements, and changing consumer behaviour. These developments make the region important in global logistics and supply chain networks—and we aim to underpin that importance through this new addition to our Middle East offering.”

Delegates to the show will have the chance to hear from sustainability and green logistics professionals as environmental concerns drive a shift toward greener logistics practices. Bloom further said, “There are many issues in the sector, so we expect a lively conference stream, backed by the sector innovators revealing ground-breaking products and services at the exhibition.”



High on the agenda will be the increasing use of automation and technology such as AI, Blockchain, warehouse automation (such as robots and drones), real-time tracking and monitoring, and digital supply chain platforms for visibility and efficiency. In addition, the rise in e-commerce, last-mile delivery issues and the associated investment required in advanced fulfilment centres, automation, and innovative delivery solutions will also be discussed.

“Dubai stands at the crossroads of innovation, collaboration, and growth in the logistics sector. Hosting such a world-class exhibition in Dubai is beneficial for the sector and essential to propel the industry forward. We look forward to the global community converging in Dubai to share, learn and drive the future of logistics,” added Bloom.

FACTFILE

- Hosting a world-class exhibition in Dubai on 24 Dec is beneficial for the sector and must to propel the industry.



Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, Director General, Dubai Customs and CEO of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation addresses a gathering of Dubai Customs officials

Dubai Customs unveils AI-powered audit system

This move is to revolutionize customs auditing through AI-driven robots that replicate human intelligence. These robots will automate auditing decisions for various cases by extracting, categorizing, verifying, and identifying potential risks in shipment-related documents, according to **Dubai Customs**.

CT Bureau

Dubai Customs is leading in global AI integration for customs operations with the introduction of the 'Post Audit Robotic Process Automation' (PCARPA) project at GITEX Global. This pioneering initiative aims to revolutionize customs auditing through Artificial Intelligence-driven robots that replicate human intelligence.

The goal is to enhance operational efficiency and reduce traditional auditing time. Dubai Customs is striving to achieve 100 per cent coverage of customs import data audits, especially for high-value commodities, within the next five years. Addressing the gathering, Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, Director

General, Dubai Customs and CEO of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation said, "These robots will automate auditing decisions for various cases by extracting, categorizing, verifying, and identifying potential risks in shipment-related documents."

He stressed the organization's proficiency in crafting advanced digital programmes, particularly in the realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He highlighted the alignment of this initiative with Dubai's vision for the commercial sector and the broader economy. Musabih reaffirmed Dubai Customs' commitment to driving future transformations in the customs sector, leveraging their extensive experience in anticipating its evolving needs.

Mansoor Al Malik, Executive Director, Policies and Legislation Division, Dubai Customs, said their ambition to lead the customs sector by harnessing automation and AI for faster and precise auditing processes to achieve increasing returns.

Dubai Customs has adopted an ambitious strategic plan that focuses on stimulating the commercial sector by offering intelligent, advanced services, streamlining procedures, and introducing flexible customs policies to expedite operations, enhance the value of Dubai's foreign trade, and make the sector more appealing to investors."

Farida Fadhil, Director, Customs Audit Department, stressed the significance of

Dubai Customs' innovative AI system, which is the first of its kind internationally.

"This system enables us to analyze customs data from importers and exporters, streamlining business operations, strengthening Dubai's role in global trade, and enhancing the competitiveness of the local economy. Import and export companies stand to benefit from faster and more efficient customs procedures, ultimately boosting business productivity."

FACTFILE

- The aim is to enhance operational efficiency and reduce traditional auditing time.

We ensure your life-saving vaccines stay cool across a world of change



At Singapore Airlines, we go the extra mile to transport life-saving drugs in prime condition via THRU COOL. With our IATA CEIV-certified handling processes and dedicated temperature-controlled facilities, you can be assured of an unbroken cold chain from origin to destination.

Visit siacargo.com for your cargo requirements



SINGAPORE AIRLINES CARGO 
THRU COOL



UAE cargo carrier launches new Japanese gateway

Etihad Cargo will strengthen commitment to the Asian market, by operating more flights to Osaka. Our customers will benefit from additional belly hold capacity and improved connectivity to key markets with the launch of the carrier's winter schedule, says **Mohammad Al Bulooki**, COO, Etihad Airways.



to the Asian market, introducing additional cargo capacity via new routes and increased frequencies. The airline will operate five passenger flights per week to Osaka, a second Japanese gateway destination for the carrier. The airline will also add three more flights to Beijing and four more flights to Shanghai per week, providing extra cargo capacity and adding further depth to its Chinese network.

Mohammad Al Bulooki, Chief Operating Officer, Etihad Airways, said, "Etihad Cargo's partners and customers will benefit from additional belly hold cargo capacity and improved connectivity to key markets with the launch of the carrier's winter schedule.

The airline's growing passenger network, combined with Etihad Cargo's scheduled and charter freighter services, will boost cargo capacity across Europe, Asia and North America, strengthening the links between Abu Dhabi and key global markets and ensuring the carrier can meet increased demand for cargo capacity. We remain committed to achieving growth and adding depth to the carrier's network and remaining the air cargo partner of choice." Etihad Cargo will offer additional cargo capacity to two



Mohammad Al Bulooki
Chief Operating Officer
Etihad Airways

new European gateways — Copenhagen in Denmark and Düsseldorf in Germany. The UAE carrier will also operate four passenger flights per week to Copenhagen. The addition of three weekly passenger flights to Düsseldorf and three more passenger flights to Munich will bring the total number of flights for Germany to 28 per week, including four freighter services for Frankfurt.

Additional cargo capacity will also be available for key routes via increased passenger flight frequencies, including four additional flights to Rome, bringing the total number of flights per week to 11, and three additional flights to Madrid and Milan, bringing the


total number of weekly flights for each destination to 10.

Etihad Cargo recently announced the commencement of a freighter service to Ezhou Huahu Airport, making Etihad Cargo the first international carrier to operate services to China's first professional cargo airport. "The carrier will con-

“Etihad Cargo will add three additional flights to Beijing and four more flights to Shanghai per week, adding further depth to its Chinese network.”

tinue to explore new partnerships and opportunities further to support the capacity requirements of its partners and customers," he said. Etihad Cargo has also provided additional belly capacity to Maldives, Cairo, Phuket, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kozhikode among others. 🇸🇦



 CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, will offer customers and partners more belly hold cargo capacity across the carrier's global network, including Japan, from September. Etihad Cargo's customers and partners will benefit from more belly-hold cargo capacity onboard passenger aircraft in addition to scheduled freighter flights. Etihad Cargo will strengthen its commitment



Battery-operated trucks mark their debut in KSA

Sustainable, future-oriented, driven by innovation and quiet: that is the first battery-electric truck from Mercedes-Benz. Committed to innovation and sustainability, eActros truck represents a landmark in emission-free road transportation sector, says **Heiko Schulze**, CEO, Juffali Commercial Vehicles.



Juffali Commercial Vehicles has a long relationship with Daimler AG, and National Automobile Industry (NAI) was set up in Jeddah to manufacture Mercedes-Benz commercial vehicles in KSA, thanks to a JV between Mercedes-Benz Commercial Vehicles and E.A. Juffali & Brothers.

With a commitment to sustainability, and a cleaner future, eActros truck takes a giant leap forward in the CO₂-free transportation sector. This cutting-edge battery-electric truck is designed to be more than just a vehicle; it is an integration of innovation and efficiency. It is a statement of Mercedes-Benz trucks' unwavering dedication to a greener planet and a step towards KSA's Vision 2030 sustainable transportation goals.

Heiko Schulze, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Juffali Commercial Vehicles, said, "Launching the eActros truck marks a record in sustainable transportation. It reinforces our commitment to sustainability in transportation and the environment. The EV truck symbolizes our dedication to responsible choices and a sus-



Heiko Schulze
CEO
Juffali Commercial Vehicles

tainable future, aligning with our core values."

Olaf Petersen, General Manager, Daimler Commercial Vehicles, Middle East and North Africa, said, "Bringing the eActros to KSA aligns perfectly with the Saudi Vision 2030. This truck, equipped with advanced features such as Stability Control Assist, Lane Keeping Assist, and Active Brake Assist 5, ensures a greener planet and a safer and comfortable ride for drivers

and pedestrians alike. Adding an extra layer of safety, the eActros has Acoustic Vehicle Alert System, making it audibly detectable by other road users at speeds up to 60 kmph. It is not just a truck; it is a symbol of our unwavering dedication to a greener planet and a cleaner future."

“eActros takes a giant step forward in the CO₂-free transportation sector. This truck is designed to be more than just a vehicle.”

The Mercedes-Benz eActros truck, contributing to environmental sustainability, was presented at the EV Auto Show in Riyadh in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The show took place between 9-10 October 2023. 🇸🇦



 CT Bureau

The much-anticipated eActros 300 L 4x2, the first battery-operated truck from Mercedes-Benz Trucks, makes its debut in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), marking a milestone in the pursuit of emission-free road transport of goods. Juffali Commercial Vehicles, the authorized general distributor for Mercedes-Benz trucks, unveiled this heavy-duty electric truck.



IEnvA certification for sustainability to dnata

The certification programme independently assessed commitment of aviation stakeholders such as airlines, airports, cargo handling facilities, freight forwarders, and ramp handlers, to improve their environmental and sustainability performance, says **Steve Allen, CEO, dnata Group**.

 CT Bureau

dnata has recently become the first combined air services provider to receive IATA's environmental management certification as a recognition of its unwavering commitment to sustainability across its diverse portfolio of businesses in the

DUBZ, dnata's baggage tech and logistics firm, also received the certification, attesting to dnata's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of sustainability

UAE, says Steve Allen, CEO, dnata Group.

IATA Environmental Assessment (IEnvA) is a certification programme developed to independently assess the commitment of aviation stakeholders such as airlines, airports, cargo handling facili-



ties, freight forwarders, and ramp handlers, to improve their environmental and sustainability performance. IATA's comprehensive evaluation encompassed 74 mandatory and all three optional modules and assessed dnata's sustainability practices across its operations in the UAE.

In addition to ground handling and cargo businesses, dnata's airport hospitality brand, Marhaba, and inflight catering joint venture, Alpha Flight Services (Alpha), were also certified through the certification's hospitality module. DUBZ, dnata's baggage technology and logistics company, also received the certification. This outcome attests to the company's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of sustainability.

Steve Allen, CEO, dnata Group, said, "We are proud to be the first combined air

services provider to achieve the full scope of the IEnvA certification in the UAE. This accomplishment speaks volumes about our team's dedication to sustainability and responsible business practices. We will continue our investments in people, infrastructure, and equipment to maximize environmental efficiency, while delivering best-in-class services for our

customers and travellers in the UAE and beyond." dnata is a leading global air and travel services provider. Established in 1959, the company offers quality and safe ground handling, cargo, travel, catering and retail services in over 30 countries across six continents. In the financial year 2022-23, dnata's customer-oriented teams handled more than 710,000 aircraft

turns, moved 2.7 million tonnes of cargo, uplifted 111.4 million meals, and recorded a TTV of travel services of US\$ 1.9 billion.

FACTFILE

- IATA assessed dnata's sustainability practices and mandatory modules.



(Right) Steve Allen, CEO, dnata Group receives IEnvA certification from (Left) Brendan Sullivan, Head, Cargo, IATA

30% ports not prepared for IMO maritime mandate

Recent study involving 200 ports found 30% are unprepared to meet impending electronic data exchange regulations, compulsory from 1 January 2024. The aim is to identify tangible benefits the maritime industry can achieve with tech intervention, says **Vineet Malhotra, Co-founder and Director, Kale Logistics Solutions.**

 CT Bureau

Multinational tech service provider, Kale Logistics Solutions unveiled a readiness survey of 200 ports that revealed 30 per cent are not prepared to adopt International Maritime Organisation (IMO)'s Maritime Single Window (MSW) mandate, which has become compulsory worldwide from 1 January 2024. The report was released by Shyam Jagannathan, Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, at the recently concluded Global Maritime India Summit in Mumbai, India.

The report revealed that nearly a third of ports worldwide are “unprepared” to adopt IMO’s maritime single window mandate and are not ready to meet impending electronic data exchange regulations despite potential savings of US\$50 billion.

The study’s aim is to identify the tangible benefits the maritime industry can achieve with technology intervention

Kale highlighted the urgency of the industry to speed up its digital transformation as it unveiled the survey results, which also cited high implementation costs, long timelines, and varying levels of digital readiness as factors for hindering regulatory compliance.



The study involved ports located throughout APAC, Middle East, Europe, Africa, North America, and South America, and emphasised

annually by using MSW platforms,” said Vineet Malhotra, Co-Founder and Director, Kale Logistics Solutions.

“However, these benefits are subject to 100 per cent adoption of the MSW, and our report reveals that ports are encountering many barriers that hinder this digitalisation. “The MSW concept has the potential to revolutionize the global shipping industry.” At the same time, the MSW platforms bring major sustainability benefits by digitizing documentation, streamlining processes, and improving information exchange, resulting in reduced paper usage and an efficient vessel management, ultimately lowering emissions and environmental impact.

On an average 12 agencies collaborate on one ship-

shore operation, and the MSW simplifies documentary procedures between all actors involved and ensures information needs to be recorded once. The company’s MSW platform is compliant with the standards of the maritime organization and enables documentation to be transferred electronically between maritime and port stakeholders, which will become mandatory from 1 January 2024.

“The importance of this recent study is to sow the seeds for a digital revolution in the maritime industry worldwide, demonstrating how digitization can not only bring order to the ongoing chaotic operations in the maritime industry, but also achieve significant sustainability goals in the long run,” added Malhotra. 🌍



WestJet Cargo to operate freighter in the Middle East

The establishment of a fresh cargo freighter operation is a unique and singular experience for which I am deeply appreciative to have had the opportunity to oversee. The operational achievements in the Middle East are undeniably impressive, says **Kirsten Van de Bruijn, Executive VP, Cargo, WestJet.**

 CT Bureau

How has your role as Executive Vice President of a global cargo company such as West Jet offered insights into the complex logistical operations that make up air cargo?

Venturing into a new business line centered around dedicated freighters has proven to be a formidable undertaking. Despite having established infrastructure for belly cargo over our entire 27-year history, the intricate logistical framework that had to be conceived and executed operationally has presented us with a remarkable journey. The establishment of a fresh cargo freighter operation is a



Kirsten Van de Bruijn
Executive VP, Cargo
WestJet

unique and singular experience for which I am deeply appreciative to have had the opportunity to oversee. Over the past year, I have acquired

knowledge beyond my wildest expectations, encompassing everything from aircraft modifications to technical proficiency and the complexities of logistics.

How do you see the Middle East cargo operations growing in the next 5 years?

Middle Eastern carriers have demonstrated a strong track record of successful investments in air cargo over an extended period. The operational achievements in the Middle East are undeniably impressive, leaving me with unwavering confidence in the region's continued growth in this sector. My experience working with two Middle Eastern carriers and the knowledge I have accumulated over the years

have provided me with a solid foundation in air cargo logistics and its intricate nuances. I hold the firm belief that Mid-

“Middle Eastern carriers have demonstrated a strong track record in air cargo over an extended period.”

dle Eastern airlines will remain at the forefront of the air cargo industry for many years to come. 🇸🇦



Usage of web-based **ERP** **systems** in logistics, cargo

Considering current levels of competition and technological innovation in the industry, digitalization has proven to keep businesses one step ahead of their rivals. Choosing web-based applications such as Fresa Gold rather than conventional offline applications makes integration an easy process.

 CT Bureau

One of the important aspects of running a successful freight forwarding firm, or any business for that matter, is the coordination of the many divisions within the organization. It functions just like the many sections of a machine. Since

freight forwarding is a service-based sector, it is essential to analyze the best and the cost-effective solutions to provide good customer service.

Considering the current levels of competition and the technological innovation in the industry, digitalization has proven to keep businesses

FACTFILE

- Web-based ERPs, such as Fresa Gold, have become an efficient investment to forwarders as they help in reducing operational costs.

one step ahead of their rivals. Digitalization can start with the usage of a cutting-edge ERP system such as Fresa Gold as well as digital marketing, cloud-based document storage solutions, among others. Making use of a convenient client portal in software such as Fresa Gold may give transparency to the clients, allowing them to be



S Ritwik Srinivas
Business Development Manager
Fresa Technologies

which knows how to apply these resources, can achieve the results. It is important to choose ERPs where integration is possible. And choosing web-based applications such as the Fresa Gold rather

“ Investing with the latest technology can act as a catalyst to business growth in terms of volume as well as revenue.”

and devise plans for new business opportunities and investments. The common misconception about digitizing the workflow is likely to reduce human intervention. While AI along with the latest technology have made automation quite easy, generating accurate reports, forecasting business growth and plans can be achieved only through proper human intervention.

than conventional offline applications makes integration an easy process.

The logic here is quite simple. AI and automation can assist and speed up the day to day process but a smart mind,

Investing with the latest technology in the market can act as a catalyst to the business growth both in terms of volume and revenue. Embracing new changes at the workplace and business process with digitalization is the best strategy for a promised growth. 🚀

confident and satisfied with the service. The client portals have allowed employees to focus more on the operations, while maintaining good customer service. Web-based ERPs, such as the Fresa Gold, have become an effective and efficient investment to the freight forwarders as they help in reducing operational costs with BPO setups for multiple locations, options to integrate with other software and portals, meeting industry and government standards, and tax filing regulations as per the country.

When synchronizing the team to the right pace with resources such as Fresa Gold, the transition of activities within the company happens without any buffer time or delay. This synchronization enables decision-makers to analyze the company's performance using suitable reports. They can estimate future performance



On mission to link the world with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

AJEX Logistics Services is poised to capture significant market share in e-commerce, industry, and heavy industry sectors. With KSA being one of the fastest growing G20 economies, the firm's presence in the USA will play a pivotal role in facilitating seamless logistics solutions and fostering partnerships.

CT Bureau

This expansion aligns perfectly with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. AJEX, as an active participant in this transformative plan, will play a vital role in diversifying the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's economy across multiple industries, enhancing solutions in logistics and supply chain management, and facilitating universal connectivity to the Kingdom.

"With KSA being one of the fastest growing G20 economies, our presence in the USA will play a pivotal role in facilitating seamless logistics solutions and fostering prosperous partnerships that not only strengthen our position as an industry leader but also con-



John Martin
General Manager, Operations, USA
AJEX Logistics Services

tributes to the economic prosperity of both nations. We are thrilled to embark on this strategic expansion into the USA,

“ We are looking to forge partnerships and contribute to growth of KSA and USA economies, while facilitating seamless global trade.”

as it signifies a milestone for AJEX, reinforces our commitment to supporting the growth of trade between KSA and the world,” said John Martin, General Manager, Operations, USA. AJEX has further bolstered its leadership team by appointing Nourhan Beyrouti as the Chief Revenue Officer.

The establishment of AJEX's operations signifies a milestone in the company's



hypergrowth strategy. With a robust presence now in the USA, AJEX is poised to capture key market share in e-commerce, industry, and heavy industry through a sector-by-sector win strategy.

The company's pursuit of excellence and commitment to customer satisfaction are core principles that will guide its operations in the USA. The company looks forward to forging strong partnerships and contributing to the growth of the KSA and USA economies, while facilitating seamless international trade and logistics operations.

With this expansion, AJEX remains steadfast in its mission to connect the world with Saudi Arabia, fostering prosperity and progress for businesses and communities alike. 🇸🇦



Traveltech Summit organized


The future of cargo transportation is poised for innovation with a focus on leveraging advanced technology. As the industry adapts to these changes, efficiency and sustainability will be at the forefront of cargo technology. The Traveltech Summit 2023 held in Dubai addressed these issues and more.





'We are keen to fulfill our sustainable commitment'

The Port of Antwerp-Bruges is a leading port with an offering for cargo. The port's versatility and infrastructure allow it to accommodate wide variety of cargo, making it one of the busiest and most diverse ports, says **Luc Arnouts, VP, International Relations and Networks, Port of Antwerp-Bruges.**

 Ritika Arora Bhola

How cargo operations at the Port of Antwerp are shaping up in the post pandemic scenario?

What has become evident in recent years is the pivotal role played by the port's infrastructure and its operational efficiency. Resilience, far from being a mere buzzword, is now imperative for navigating the ever-evolving global landscape. The Port of Antwerp-Bruges has demonstrated its resilience, ensuring the continuation of its operations. This resilience is not confined to the physical infra alone but extends to the people behind its operations. We have witnessed resilience among our numerous partners, underscoring the collaborative effort re-

quired to thrive in this ever-changing environment.

How would you rate infra there for efficient cargo movement? Is it good enough to move cargo?

The port continuously invests in upgrading its infrastructure to meet the growing demands of global trade and to enhance its efficiency. An example is the ECA project or Extra Container Capacity project. The additional capacity will be provided by the expansion of a new tidal dock and development of land within the existing port area. In this connection, ECA makes optimal use of the existing and future space. The ECA ensures the port will have extra 7.2 million TEU at its disposal. It supports the European and Flemish climate ambitions and aims to be climate neutral by 2050.



Luc Arnouts
VP, International Relations and Networks, Port of Antwerp-Bruges

Another milestone for the Port of Antwerp-Bruges is that it is the first maritime port in the world to operate its entire logistics chain, as per the European Good Distribution Practice (GDP) rules. The distribution of pharma products


requires specific handling. This method is defined in the GDP (Good Distribution Practice) norms. The port is the first seaport in the world to translate these rules into the maritime sphere to operate in accordance with these European GDP rules throughout the logistics chain. The guidelines have been officially recorded in a certificate issued by the international certification company

“It is the first port in the world to operate its logistics chain, according to the European GDP rules.”



SGS. This quality system ensures that the quality of pharmaceutical products such as medication, blood plasma, vaccines and medical materials is maintained during the distribution process. Moreover, the port offers 63 000m² of GDP-certified warehouse space for storage between both 2-8°C and 15-20°C.

How much emphasis has been given on multimodal connectivity to enhance operational efficiency?

The port further has developed an integrated transport network that allows for efficient transfer of cargo between ships, trains, trucks, and barges. 

DHL Group in Middle East pilots new system to use SAF

Neste, ISCC and DHL Group joined forces to test a system through which airlines, logistics service providers and end customers can report emission reduction achieved by using SAF to reduce their emissions from air travel and transport, said Gernot Klepper, Chairman, ISCC Association.



Etihad Cargo appoints WFS as cargo handling agent in USA



Etihad Cargo has appointed Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) as the carrier's cargo handling partner in the USA to enhance its capabilities. Thomas Schürmann, Head, Cargo Operations & Delivery, said, "We are committed to providing end-to-end air cargo solutions. It is imperative we collaborate with the cargo handling partners."

Zebra Technologies to transform Aramtec's warehouse ops by 14%



Zebra Technologies Corporation has announced Aramtec will deploy a Zebra warehouse automation solution to further digitize and enhance its warehouse operations. Through this transformation, Aramtec aims to increase productivity by 14 per cent. Since its incep-

tion in 1979, it has operated as a family-run business, supplying premium quality food to the UAE's industry. The company also imports and distributes worldwide selected food brands and products across the region, including Qatar. With 2,500 stock keeping units (SKUs), according to a company statement.

Aramex expands UAE fleet with EVs in sustainability drive



The recent deployment of EVs marks the first phase of Aramex's strategy to expand its clean mobility fleet in the UAE. Aramex has announced adding EVs to its last-mile delivery fleet in the UAE, as part of its commitment to sustainability and lowering its CO₂ footprint. The initiative is part of Aramex's broader plans to achieve CO₂ neutrality by 2030.



DXB is world's busiest airport for global outbound

Dubai International Airport will keep its ranking as the world's busiest airport for outbound traffic in 2023, accounting for 2 per cent of all outbound air traffic internationally, according to new data from ForwardKeys. The report stated Dubai airport performance is attributed to its excellent connectivity across various countries. "Outbound seat capacity is set to improve with the gradual recovery of Chinese long-haul travel," according to the research conducted by ForwardKeys.

Cargo tunnel in Heathrow airport to reopen soon

The cargo tunnel connecting to T4 Heathrow was closed on October 2 due to a “life safety issue”, causing officials to warn of potential delays and re-routing of cargo. However, according to a spokesperson of Air Cargo News the tunnel would re-open shortly.



Latam Cargo's new Brazil-Netherlands route targets pharmaceuticals



Latam Cargo has launched a new air route between Brazil and the Netherlands that will target the pharma market and provide a faster connection. The service would operate twice per week between Amsterdam and Curitiba utilizing one of its Boeing 767 freighter aircraft, said Gudny Genskowsky, Vice President.

Menzies Aviation signs pact with Air Serbia to support airline's growth

Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, an Agility company, has signed an MoU with Air Serbia, the leading airline in the wider Balkan region, to form a JV to support the Serbian national flag carrier's ambitious growth plans. Hassan El Houry, Chairman, Menzies Aviation, said, “We are excited with the opportunity to work with Air Serbia, helping the airline achieve domestic



and global growth.” Menzies will deliver passenger and ramp services at Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport, beginning February 2024. The pact, the biggest deal in Eastern Europe to date, will see local teams manage 22,000 turns in the first year at the busiest airport in Serbia.

ITA Airways Cargo announces to join Wisetech Global



ITA Airways has announced it has joined WiseTech Global Carrier Connectivity Programme that enables freight forwarders to plan, book, confirm and manage shipments in real-time from within the industry's leading logistics execution platform, CargoWise. Emiliana Limosani, CCO, ITA Airways, said.



10th anniversary of Cathay Pacific ops at HKIA

Cathay Cargo Terminal celebrated its 10th anniversary of full operations at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) by rolling out its new marketing brand internationally and hosting a party for customers and stakeholders in Hong Kong. Tom Owen, Director, Cathay Cargo, and Chair, Cathay Cargo Terminal (CCT), said, “It is great to be able to celebrate the special day with so many of our customers and special friends of the airport terminal,” according to a press statement.



Stakeholders discuss trends on Vienna Cargo Day

The first Vienna Cargo Day took place at AirportCity, directly followed by FlyPharma Europe 2023 on 10-11 October 2023. Many air cargo representatives gathered at Vienna Airport to exchange news and trends on sustainability, digitalization, or hydrogen. Steven Polmans, President, TIACS, who opened the event, stressed how such events help to make the industry even more attractive. He said the event stressed an intensive exchange between all stakeholders is important.

CPK Airport signs contract for the design of air traffic control tower

The CPK Airport's traffic control tower will be designed by JSK Architekci, the studio which designed the western pier of T1 at Munich Airport. The tallest of its kind in Poland, JSK Architekci is the studio whose portfolio includes design of T2 of Gdańsk Airport, Wrocław Airport terminal and the western pier of T1 of Munich Airport. It is also responsible for designing numerous public facilities and offices.



CEVA Logistics to use robots in cutting-edge Los Angeles facility



CEVA Logistics, a world leader in 3PL, recently opened its 135,000 square feet transload facility. Robots from Boston Dynamics will be used to serve CEVA's customers at the strategically located site within miles of both the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles—two pivotal gateways for global trade and the USA economy.

Pacific Air Cargo joins digital cargo capacity exchange Airblox



Pacific Air Cargo has placed its capacity on digital air cargo capacity exchange, Airblox. The USA-based cargo airline provides Boeing 747-400 freighter flights between LA and Honolulu six days a week and weekly services Pago Pago, American Samoa, and Guam, as well as on-demand charters, said Brian Kolb, VP, Strategy, Airblox.

Cargo revenue of Delta Air Lines drops 36% due to slow freight demand



Delta Air Lines' cargo revenue dropped for the second consecutive quarter amid an ongoing freight recession that has eroded demand and shipping rates. The cargo and maintenance businesses pressured total unit revenues by a point in an otherwise strong third quarter for the Atlanta-based airline, a press release stated.

Movements



ETIHAD CARGO APAC & India

★ **Giridharan Srinivasan** has been appointed as new Area General Manager, Indian Subcontinent of Etihad Cargo. He will be responsible for setting up developing existing relationships with customers of Etihad Cargo based in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and surrounding regions. He will report to Latha Narayan, Director, East Cargo Commercial, Asia-Pacific, Australasia and Indian Subcontinent, Etihad Cargo. Srinivasan has 17 years of logistics experience, five of which have been within the aviation sector.



ETIHAD CARGO Abu Dhabi

★ **Soufyan Mouaniss** has been promoted as Director, West Cargo Commercial. He will be based in Etihad Cargo's head office in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He will lead all commercial activity for the carrier in the Western region, including Europe and the Americas. He joined Etihad Cargo in 2019 as GM, Benelux and Nordic region, and was recently worked as Area GM, North and West Europe. Tim Isik, VP, Commercial, Etihad Cargo said, "He has demonstrated his ability to deliver results. I am sure he will play be involved in expanding the carrier's reach in the West."



SAUDIA CARGO KSA

★ **Eng. Loay Mashabi** has been appointed as the Managing Director of Saudia Cargo. Eng. Loay, former Deputy Minister for Logistics Services at the Ministry of Transportation and Logistics Services, has a background in the logistics sector and has played a pivotal role in bolstering KSA's position as a logistics hub. He has served on various positions in private and government sectors and was a board member of KSA, Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones, Riyadh Integrated, and Saudi Exports Authority. Loay will oversee initiatives to ensure Saudia Cargo continues in its growth path.



TT CLUB Singapore

★ **Kamel Tlili** takes up the role of Regional General Manager, APAC, for international freight and logistics insurer, TT Club based in its Singapore office. He has spent 14 years at TT's sister mutual, UK P&I both as an Underwriting Director and Claims Director. Tasked with maintaining the strong market position the Club enjoys in the region and expanding its reach, particularly in the fast-growing logistics sector, Tlili has the experience to tackle the challenge. He joins TT after six-year stint at British Marine's P&I Underwriting Division in Asia at QBE.



FIATA Geneva

★ **Turgut Erkeskin** has been appointed as President, FIATA. He has been president and chief executive of Genel Transport for 35 years was formerly the senior VP, of FIATA. He was also the president of Turkish NGO International Transportation and Logistics Service Providers Association for over 10 years, until November 2021. Erkeskin was elected at the 2023 FIATA Electoral General Meeting during the 2023 FIATA World Congress. He takes the place of outgoing president Ivan Petrov, who is managing director of Trans Express in Bulgaria.



NETWORK AVIATION GROUP USA

★ **Andy Bentley** has joined has joined the Commercial team of the Network's Eagle House Headquarters, Crawley, United Kingdom. Bentley was previously with Atlas Air and has now joined the Commercial team at Network's Eagle House headquarters. Bentley will be primarily involved with business development for NAM's Managed Fleet, which operates four X B747Fs on a scheduled and worldwide charter basis. Bentley brings a wealth of air cargo and charter experience, which will be invaluable to the business, according to a company statement.



*All your cargo needs covered
with daily flights
out of the Middle East*

SriLankan Cargo provides seamless connectivity out of the Middle East to an expansive global network.

Visit www.srilankancargo.com to connect with our offices located in the Middle East.

Your air cargo
partner of choice



الإتجاه
ETIHAD
CARGO

etihadcargo.com