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CARGO talk

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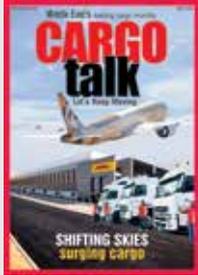
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Region at a TURNING POINT

The Middle East has established itself as one of the world's busiest cargo crossroads. The region acts as a vital bridge for goods moving between East and West, and emerging markets in the Global South. Logistics infrastructure, advanced airports, and efficient maritime ports have strengthened the region's position as a modern cargo powerhouse.

 Dr Shehara Rizly Fernando

Major aviation hubs and integrated supply chains enable faster transit times and seamless connectivity for global forwarders and logistics providers. As volumes continue to expand and supply chains evolve, the Gulf region remains at the heart of global commerce, driving cargo flow and facilitating the global exchange of goods. To understand the dynamics behind the region's busiest cargo corridors, **CARGOTALK** engaged with leading logistics experts, forwarders, cargo specialists, and supply chain strategists.

Their insights reveal how the region's geographic advantage, combined with investments in infrastructure and digital logistics, has changed it into a central node for global cargo flow. Experts highlight that the Gulf serves

as a natural consolidation and redistribution point for freight originating in Asian hubs and moving onward to Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Cargo hubs in the Gulf play a vital role in facilitating shipments such as pharma, electronics, perishables, and high-value goods.

With advanced terminals, cold chain facilities, and seamless customs processes, the region enables the efficient handling of complex logistics ops. A key theme emerging from discussions is the growth of e-commerce and express logistics, which has increased demand. Industry leaders point to investments in greener logistics solutions, smarter routing tech, and partnerships that help maintain supply chain continuity during disruptions. Together, they reinforce the Gulf's role as one of the world's most influential cargo gateways.

Shift in global trade reshaping cargo flow

The Gulf is an import-driven market, with cargo routes originating from Europe, China, India, Thailand, Japan, and Vietnam. While yields may vary, the import of essentials underpins stable, long-term revenue. Shifts in global trade, driven by e-commerce and evolving tariff policies, are reshaping cargo flows. Expanding sea-air capabilities and growing port infra in Abu Dhabi are also strengthening multimodal connectivity, which enhances route development and long-term network efficiency.



Leonard Rodrigues
Director, Revenue Management & Network Planning, Etihad Cargo

“Expanding sea-air capabilities and growing port infrastructure in Abu Dhabi are fortifying multimodal connectivity.”



High-value cargo drives revenue, backs growth

Key Gulf routes link the UAE and GCC with Europe, China, and India. They transport e-commerce, oil, petrochemicals, electronics, perishables, and pharma, among others. High-value cargo drives airport and seaport revenues, while backing regional growth and fortifying Dubai, Doha, and Riyadh as global gateways. Improved multimodal linkage integrates air, sea, road, and rail and cuts transit times, costs, and improves efficiency. Logistics zones and regional rail links are fortifying trade corridors and attracting investment.



Zameer Marikkar
CCO
Fita Cargo

“Enhanced logistics zones and regional rail links are fortifying trade corridors and attracting investment.”

Links between ports, rail, roads move cargo faster

The important cargo routes in the Gulf are the Suez Canal and Strait of Hormuz. These routes carry oil, natural gas, containers, and other goods. Many ships pass through them annually, helping global trade and



Razmal Assen
Executive Director
Scanwell Logistics LLC

“Of late, cargo routes, such as Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, are gaining importance.”

raking up better revenues, while changes in global trade and supply chains affect cargo flow across the Gulf. Lately, routes such as the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route are gaining importance. Links between ports, railways, and roads help cargo move faster and support trade growth.

Multimodal connectivity reduces transit times

The busiest routes include the Gulf to India, China, Europe, and East Africa. These routes carry electronics, machinery, pharma, perishables, and e-commerce goods. Shipments operate daily or several times per week. High-value and time-sensitive cargo make them major revenue drivers for airlines and logistics providers in the Gulf region. Investments in ports, rail, and logistics zones enhances multimodal connectivity, cuts transit times, boosts resilience, and positions the Gulf as a pivotal trade bridge.



Norris El Hiraki
Sales Director
SolitAir Holding

“High-value and time-sensitive cargo make them major revenue drivers for airlines and logistics providers.”



Intra-regional demand creates routing patterns

The critical Middle East container routes are Asia–GCC, GCC–India, and Gulf–East Africa. Shipments on these routes are weekly or bi-weekly, with stable utilisation levels. Diversification away from single-source manufacturing, growth in India–Middle East trade, and intra-regional demand are creating new routing patterns. Better links support faster repositioning of empty containers, higher asset utilisation, and flexible trading options. It enables support for customers with integrated solutions, even as trade patterns evolve.



Sarju Nair
GM
Green Box Containers

“Better links support faster repositioning of empty containers, higher asset utilisation, and flexible trading options.”



Development of new trade corridors

Corridors connect trade from Asia, Europe, and Africa through hubs such as Dubai, Riyadh, and Doha. With daily frequencies, they drive consistent volumes and strong yields, and are vital contributors to cargo



Rohit Thakwani
CEO
Airglow Aviation

“Corridors connect trade from Asia, Europe, and Africa through hubs such as Dubai, Riyadh, and Doha.”

revenues and regional trade flows. As supply chains evolve, the region is positioned as a logistics bridge between continents. Multi-modal connectivity linking air, sea, and road is improving transit efficiency and cost competitiveness. This integration is accelerating development of new trade corridors.



Efficiency up, costs down with **smart warehousing**

Warehouse digitalisation shifts the industry from manual, error-prone, and paper-based processes toward smart and automated ecosystems. By integrating AI, robotics, IoT, and advanced WMS, modern warehouses are hiking throughput, enhancing accuracy and safety. While automated workflows reduce human error, users report 99% accuracy rates. Robots handle unsafe tasks, thereby reducing workplace injuries.



 Sonia Sali

Driven by e-commerce growth, warehouse digitalisation has become the need of the hour in logistics. Advanced Warehouse Management System (WMS) serves as the backbone of this transformation, integrating inventory, workforce, and processing data to enable real-time monitoring and decision-making.

With automated data captured through Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), barcode scanning, and pick-to-light systems, warehouses can minimise human error, optimise storage allocation, and accelerate order

processing. Integration with enterprise systems such as ERP, TMS, and CRM breaks down data silos, allowing businesses to respond to demand fluctuations and supply chain disruptions.

Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMRs) and Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems (AS/RS) increase throughput, while reducing labour dependence and space requirements. AI-driven analytics foresee demand and optimise workflows, ensuring better resource utilisation and higher service reliability. IoT-enabled sensors and digital twins provide continuous equipment monitoring and predictive maintenance, thus reducing downtime

and operational costs. Collectively, these innovations enhance scalability, enable faster order fulfillment, and strengthen supply chain resilience.

But how firms implement these strategies varies with size and complexity. Large enterprises may adapt full-scale digitalisation across all operations, while smaller ones receive help from a phased, scalable approach to technological integration.

Digitalised warehouses empowered by disruptive tech offer measurable gains that are faster, cheaper, and more reliable — helping businesses thrive in the logistics ecosystem.

Technology improves inventory visibility

Warehouse digitalisation enhances efficiency by integrating WMS, real-time inventory tracking, and automated data capture tech, such as barcode scanning and RFID. These tools reduce manual intervention, minimise errors, improve inventory accuracy, and visibility. Transparency across ops strengthens supply chain coordination, faster decision-making, improved demand forecasting, and customer satisfaction. These innovations enhance scalability, improve reliability, and drive revenue growth through faster fulfilment.



Abid Hamza
GM, Business Development
Fast Logistics Cargo FZCO

“These innovations drive revenue growth through faster fulfilment and create an agile and cost-effective warehousing ecosystem.”

Automation reflects large enterprise abilities

The modern marketplace, shaped by explosive growth of e-commerce, has caused a rethinking of warehouse functionality. Warehouse digitalisation has replaced manual error-prone processes with integrated WMS



Arul Prabeen
GM
Shipstar

“Smaller businesses need time, while a gradual scale approach is considered far more realistic and sustainable.”

providing real-time visibility into inventory workflows and productivity. However, not every business should adopt all tech simultaneously. While full-scale digitalisation reflects large enterprise capabilities, smaller ones need time. A gradual scaled approach is still far more realistic and sustainable.



Tech adoption helps connect inventory

Warehouse digitalisation alters ops by linking inventory, people, and processes in real-time. At ATS Shipping, our upgraded WMS improves visibility, automates workflows, and reduces manual intervention. This minimises errors, accelerates order processing, enhances stock accuracy, fortifies decision-making, and improves supply chain reliability. Technology optimises space utilisation, forecasts demand, and enables predictive maintenance. Warehousing supports scalable growth, lower costs, and margins.



Rizwan Kareem
Director, Air Freight Ops
ATS World

“An improved or upgraded WMS, strengthens decision-making and improves supply chain reliability.”

Robotics, blockchain enhance efficiency

Warehouse digitalisation is altering how firms run by replacing manual processes with data-driven systems. WMS, automation, IoT tracking, and AI improve accuracy, speed, and visibility across the supply chain. For



Jo Ann Ignacio
Commercial Manager
KS Global Logistics

“WMS, automation, IoT tracking, and AI improve accuracy, speed, and visibility across the supply chain.”

KS Global Logistics, these tools reduce errors, lower operating costs, and fortify customer confidence through faster, more transparent, reliable service. Robotics, analytics, and blockchain enhance efficiency and reliability. Digitalisation enables our teams to work effectively and positions us to scale sustainably.

Inventory tracking reduces manual errors

Operating within one of the region's most dynamic logistics hubs, our company's JAFZA facility has implemented WMS for enhancing speed, accuracy, and end-to-end supply chain visibility. Real-time inventory tracking, barcode-enabled workflows, and digital documentation reduce errors. WMS optimises flow across warehouse ops, provides task allocation, live dashboards, and performance analytics. Our teams find bottlenecks, improve service standards, and transform system abilities.



Asif Iqbal
Warehouse Ops Manager
Compass Logistics
International

“WMS optimises flow across warehouse ops, providing task allocation, live dashboards, and performance analytics.”

Greener, smarter, safer airports on the rise

The aviation sector is entering a new phase of growth, driven by investments in sustainable practices and modern infrastructure. Airports in the UAE and KSA are leading the way, adopting energy-efficient designs and advanced technologies to create more efficient and future-ready facilities.

 CT Bureau

Across the Middle East and Asia-Pacific, governments and aviation authorities are investing heavily in airport infrastructure to support long-term growth in the sector, with a focus on the future of airports, air travel, and infrastructure development.

According to the Centre for Aviation, global airport construction has stabilised with 1,031 projects worth US\$ 766 billion. A large share of this activity is being driven by developments in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East. Combined investments in airport infrastructure across these two regions are expected to reach US\$ 240 billion between 2025 and 2035. This includes upgrades to existing airports and the construction of new facilities.



HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum
Chairman, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority; Chairman, Dubai Airports, Chairman, Emirates Airline and Group, and Patron, Dubai Airport Show

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, and Patron of the Airport Show said, "The B2B platform in Dubai, the global centre of

KSA is expanding its aviation sector as part of its economic plans and aims to attract 150 mn tourists by 2030

connectivity, highlights the emerging technologies, cultivates partnerships, supports national and regional priorities, and enables meaningful dialogues between regulators, operators, and solution providers."

UAE, KSA LEAD THE WAY

In the Gulf, several large airport projects are underway. Riyadh and Dubai are developing major airport facilities as part of broader aviation and tourism strategies. These projects represent a significant portion

of the region's airport infrastructure spending. Sharjah International Airport is expanding its capacity through the addition of a new runway and the development of a new passenger terminal, with completion expected by 2027. KSA is also expanding its aviation sector as part of its long-term economic plans and aims to attract 150 million tourists by 2030.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum added, "This will help our shared ambition of building smarter, safer, and more sustainable airports, and of enhancing the quality of service and facilities for airlines." 🇲🇪

AT A GLANCE

- ❖ Major airport projects in Dubai and Riyadh
- ❖ US\$ 766 bn airport projects in pipeline
- ❖ US\$ 240 bn airport investments in APAC, Gulf regions
- ❖ They include airports upgradation and creating new facilities
- ❖ Sharjah Airport expansion to include new runway and pax terminal by 2027





Rising e-comm, airspace closures change **air** **cargo dynamics**

The Middle East air cargo industry is navigating airspace closures, shifting trade policies, and surge in e-commerce demand. **Glyn Hughes, Director-General** shares how TIACA continues to suggest and guide members, regulators, and governments toward solutions that support safe and growth-oriented air cargo operations.

 Sonia Sali

What is TIACA's suggestion to its members on air space closures and re-routes?

Adherence to issued notifications is essential as safety is the primary concern for flight operations. We also encourage broad and early communication with the customer through the

TIACA advocates free, fair, and open trade and working with states in easing trade curbs

forwarder network. Since airspace closures cause inconvenience and add time, cost, and complexity, it is important for everyone to be forewarned. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war,

a side effect of which has been the closure of Russian airspace for carriers flying under an AOC issued by a state that introduced sanctions against Russia, has added three more hours on an Asia-Europe flight paths and caused technical fuel stops en route.

How does TIACA help agents stay efficient amid industry changes?

We are living in unprecedented times, as the trading environment is under attack from protectionist measures, emanating from the world's largest economy. Once implemented, these measures are difficult to reverse, as policy and physical trade barriers tend to spread. But with challenges come opportunities, as new partners are sought by states. The association plays a vital role in advocating free, fair, and open trade. We look to work with individual states in easing trade curbs and border blockages, wherever they exist.



How can regulators and airlines simplify cross-border cargo processes?

First is the recognition of common and shared objectives. All parties look to maximise flight safety and compliance, while facilitating the free flow of goods. Once united around these shared goals, the parties should make a priority list of issues that each considers crucial to address.

The next stage is to scan the global ecosystem to find best practice examples that have addressed each of the priority areas. It is crucial to have an all-party dialogue and develop joint



Glyn Hughes
Director-General
TIACA

procedures. Regular communication is key, and with jointly agreed implementation timeframes, everyone must work toward the same success criteria. TIACA and

All parties look to maximise flight safety and compliance, while facilitating the free flow of goods

other trade associations can help in this process.

What are your recommendations for govts on e-commerce and air cargo?

E-commerce demand is not a short-term trend, it

offers consumers benefits in terms of time, choice, convenience, and accessibility. Governments often view e-commerce negatively and we are seeing several minimis exemptions, which previously allowed low value shipments to be imported without application of duties or taxes. We promote govts to look at e-commerce as an integral part of global trade. We encourage govts to set up national policies, which enable their country to expand participation as an e-commerce exporter, focusing on unique national identity products. 🇸🇦



TIACA INSIGHTS

- ❖ Ensure safety and clear communication
- ❖ Airspace conflicts add time and cost
- ❖ Support agents with trade solutions
- ❖ Regulators and airlines must collaborate
- ❖ E-commerce drives long-term growth
- ❖ Governments should promote exports

Cracking the code to delivering cargo in tough terrains

Limited airport facilities, unpredictable trade movements, and delicate or high-value products add more to the challenge. Coyne Airways focuses on safety, reliability, and flexible cargo operations to overcome these obstacles, while transporting goods, says **Liana Coyne, Director, Coyne Airways.**

Sonia Sali

What are the challenges of ferrying cargo to remote or gruelling locations?

Transporting cargo to remote or hard-to-reach destinations comes with several challenges. First, infrastructure is often limited. Short runways, minimal ground equipment, and basic airport facilities mean shipments require specialised aircraft and strong local ability to manage conditions on the ground. Second, cargo volumes can be unpredictable. Trade movement is uneven, with heavy demand in one direction and little in the other.

Finally, there are the same cost elements and requirements for customer service that apply to mainstream destinations. At Coyne Airways, our focus is to bring cost-effective and seamless transparency to the world's toughest destinations. Overcoming these challenges requires flexible solutions, trusted local knowledge, strong partnerships, and clear, reliable communication throughout the supply chain.

How does Coyne Airways safeguard fragile or high-value cargo in remote and difficult regions?

Ensuring the safety of fragile or high-value cargo in



Liana Coyne
Director
Coyne Airways

Overcoming these challenges requires flexible solutions, local knowledge, partnerships, and communication

challenging regions starts with maintaining control and visibility across the

journey. We manage the full logistics chain. Before acceptance, we advise customers on proper packaging to reduce the risk of damage. At origin and destination, we work closely with trusted handling partners to make sure the right security measures are in place. We recognise that “high-value” can mean different things depending on the market: Sometimes sneakers are a high-theft risk. That is why we rely on experienced



local partners who understand on-the-ground risks. We use a single air waybill from origin to destination to keep the documentation tight, while professional handling, secure storage, and quick transit help minimise exposure throughout the shipment's journey.

How does the company ensure reliable service in conflict-affected destinations?

Maintaining reliability in unstable regions is about being proactive, not reactive. At Coyne Airways, we are experienced in dealing with the unexpected, remaining calm, and finding innovative solutions. A big part of that is agility. We use a hub-and-spoke model, moving cargo from global origins to key hubs via interline partners. From there, we have access to a range of aircraft and operators.

That flexibility allows us to choose the right aircraft for the said mission. Just as important are our trusted local partners, who provide on-the-ground insight and help us in maintaining



seamless service and visibility, even when required infrastructure is limited or short.

We use a hub-and-spoke model, moving cargo from global origins to key hubs via interline partners

How do you deliver cargo shipments where the airport facilities are minimal and infrastructure limited?

When airport facilities are minimal or transport networks are underdeveloped, flexibility is everything. At Coyne Airways, we have experience in managing some of the industry's more rugged aircraft, such as Ilyushin Il-76, Antonov An-12 and An-124. These aircraft are built for tougher environments, with short take-off and landing that allows them

to operate on unpaved or damaged runways where standard freighters simply cannot land.

They are self-sufficient, equipped with onboard ramps and lifting equipment, which means we can load and unload heavy cargo even when no ground handling equipment is available. While these aircraft are less fuel-efficient than several others; we balance costs by using interline lift and even sea lift into regional hubs wherever possible. 🌍



AT A GLANCE

- ❖ Operates where airports are limited
- ❖ Handles erratic cargo volumes
- ❖ Secures high-value shipments
- ❖ Utilises rugged specialised aircraft
- ❖ Relies on trusted local partners
- ❖ Maintains flexible hub-and-spoke operations
- ❖ Ensures end-to-end control and handling

Emirates SkyCargo plays vital role in India–UAE trade

As the India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) approaches its third anniversary, trade between the two countries is reaching new heights. India’s exports to the UAE are growing faster than its overall export market, and Emirates SkyCargo is playing a major role in supporting this boom.

CT Bureau

Emirates SkyCargo is expanding its footprint in India with two new weekly freighters — one to Mumbai and another to Ahmedabad — as demand for reliable cargo services continues to grow.

The move strengthens trade links and helps Indian businesses connect with partners and



Badr Abbas
Divisional Senior Vice President
Emirates SkyCargo

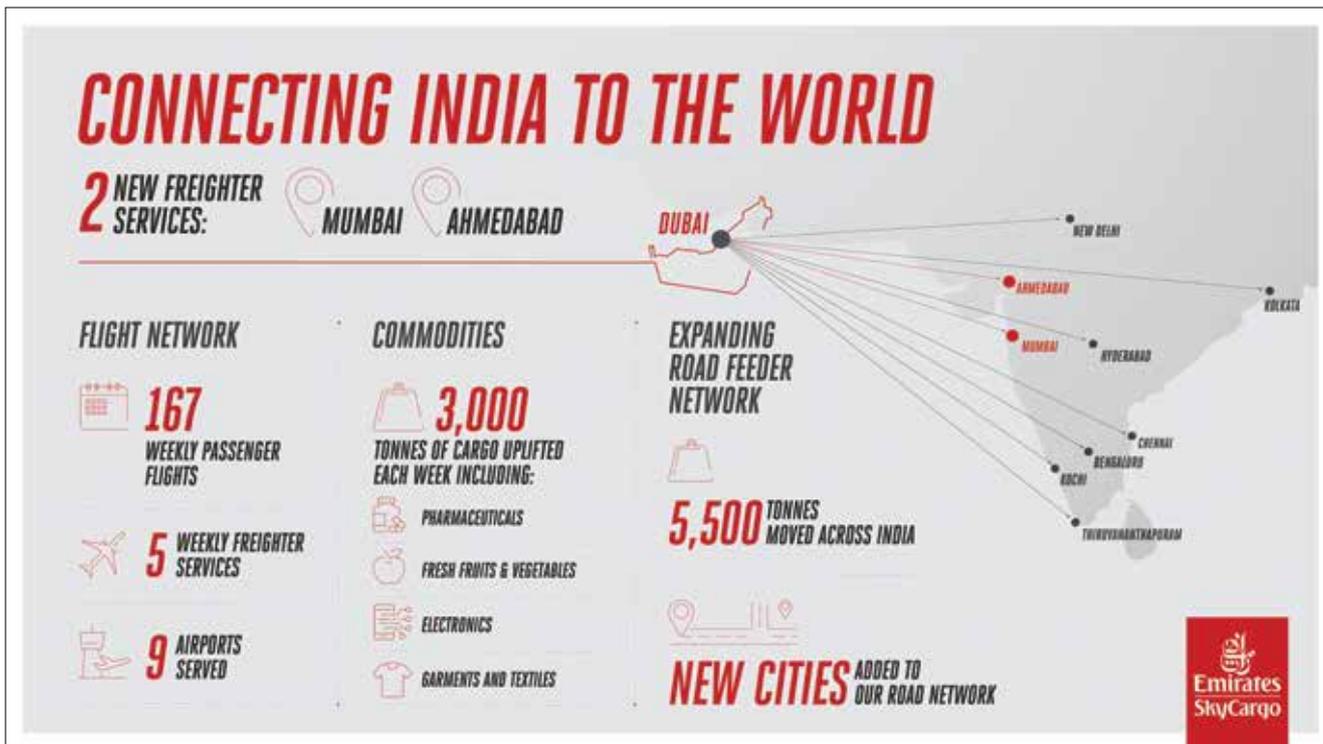
The carrier continues to strengthen outbound, linking major and secondary cities to its network

customers around the world. Together, these new

flights are expected to carry an additional 3,000 tonnes of cargo each week.

The freighter to Mumbai, launched on 4 March, connects Dubai, Singapore, and India, while the Ahmedabad flight will operate as a direct, dedicated service. Both services will carry essentials, pharmaceuticals, fresh fruits and vegetables, personal electronics, and other products.





“Our new freighter frequency to India reflects the strength of Indian trade corridors, and our long-term

commitment to supporting it,” said Badr Abbas, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo.

“India is a powerhouse of pharma, perishables, manufacturing, and e-commerce, and the demand for reliable and stable capacity continues to grow.”

Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram. The carrier continues to strengthen outbound, linking major and secondary cities to its network. With more freighters, trucks, and global connections, the firm is ensuring Indian businesses move goods quickly, safely, and efficiently around the world. 🇦🇪

Emirates SkyCargo supports Indian exports through an extensive trucking network. Last year, more than 1,000 trucks moved 5,500 tonnes of cargo across the country, including machinery, textiles, spices, satellites, and automotive and aircraft spare parts. Temperature-controlled trucks ensured that delicate pharmaceuticals and medical equipment reached their destinations safely.

New offline stations in Coimbatore and Goa allow businesses in these regions to access global markets more easily. Coimbatore is a hub for SMEs in engineering, textiles, and automotive industries, and these connections enhance India’s export economy.

Emirates SkyCargo, which began services in 1985 has grown to serve nine cities, including Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad,



IN SHORT

- ❖ Two new weekly freighters to Mumbai and Ahmedabad
- ❖ Adds 3,000 tonnes cargo per week
- ❖ Key shipments are pharma, perishables, and electronics
- ❖ 1k trucks move 5.5k tonnes per year
- ❖ New offline hubs are Coimbatore & Goa
- ❖ Serves nine cities across India
- ❖ Supports India-UAE CEPA trade growth

Dubai Customs strengthens ops in the face of uncertainty

Shifts in air cargo, logistics, and supply chain sectors are unpredictable. Changing trade patterns, new technologies, and security risks are reshaping how products move across the world. For organisations that manage global trade movements, being able to react quickly has become more important than ever.



CT Bureau

In response to geopolitical shifts, Dubai Customs has taken a major step to prepare for the future by launching its Corporate Resilience Programme (CRP). The initiative is aimed at helping the organisation respond quickly and effectively to global changes, ensure smooth operations, and be ready to face emerging challenges in trade and logistics.

His Excellency Dr Abdullah Busenad, Director-General, Dubai Customs, highlighted why resilience is more than just a policy. “In a world that is changing rapidly, resilience is a strategic necessity. It helps protect what we have achieved and ensures we are ready for the future.”

He explained that the programme is not only about rules or procedures but also about creating a flexible culture, efficient

The CRP builds a framework that connects strategy, risk management, and operational readiness

systems, and a workforce capable of making well-timed decisions.

The programme builds a framework that connects strategy, risk management, and operational readiness. It focuses on collaboration across different sectors, improving digital capabilities, nurturing local talent, and embedding resilience into daily work.

Dr Busenad emphasised that this approach is meant to be long-term, not just a response to crises. “Success depends on teamwork, shared responsibility, and a

clear vision,” he said, “so we can protect national interests and keep Dubai competitive globally.”

Furthermore, Dubai Customs also outlined the measures to implement the programme — from strategy and risk assessment to evaluation. The strenuous effort is seen as a responsibility that touches each and every part of the organisation, rather than a single department.

In 2025, it handled goods worth US\$ 1 trillion in trade and completed 40 million transactions with an average clearance time of under five minutes. These figures show a strong foundation of efficiency and readiness.

The programme will help Dubai Customs manage international shifts, such as technological advances, geopolitical changes, and emerging security threats. Initiatives, such

as these will train the employees in risk awareness and strategic planning, while a new internal knowledge platform will provide ongoing support.

IN SHORT

- ❖ Fortifies readiness for trade changes
- ❖ Resilience as a strategic priority
- ❖ Strategy, risk management, and operations linked
- ❖ Collaboration, digital skills, and focus on local talent
- ❖ Staff training and internal knowledge platform
- ❖ Aims to keep Dubai agile, efficient, and competitive

E-commerce reshapes market, air cargo witnesses surge

With global trade patterns evolving, the Gulf is emerging as a transit point and a hub for shaping the future of air cargo. E-commerce, with its surging volumes and time-sensitive demand, is redefining cargo and logistics, while geopolitical shifts highlight the need for resilience, says **Rohit Thakwani, CEO, Airglow Aviation**.

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The Middle East air cargo market is experiencing a major shift, with e-commerce emerging as the driver of growth. Dubai has become a major transit hub, handling increasing volumes of goods destined not only for GCC countries but also for Africa. This development positions the region as a vital point in global e-commerce supply chains, with transit hubs, such as Dubai World Central (DWC) witnessing substantial increases in throughput.

“Geopolitical volatility continues to pose challenges. Potential conflicts between countries in the region could temporarily



Rohit Thakwani
CEO, Airglow Aviation
(Company bags award for BestCargo GSA at ACA 2025)

reduce volumes, but operators are prepared to adapt,” said Thakwani. “Contingency measures, including alternative routing and transshipment options, are in place to ensure continuity of ops, despite

Looking ahead, growth is likely to continue, supported by expansion of air cargo networks and new routes

disruptions. This resilience is critical in a market where the ability to respond quickly to changing circumstances can determine operational stability.”

Looking ahead, growth is likely to continue, supported by expansion of air cargo networks and addition of new destinations. Regional hubs are investing

in infra and capabilities to handle larger volumes and a broader range of products. Thakwani noted markets like India and Africa are generating more demand and opportunities for carriers to scale operations and enhance connectivity across regions.

While challenges remain, including fluctuations in demand and regulatory considerations, the Gulf’s strategic location and focus on modernising airport and cargo facilities are strengthening its position in global logistics. E-commerce, in particular, is set to remain a key growth engine, transforming the region into a vital link in international trade flows.

With planning, proactive operations, and flexible routing strategies, the sector in the Middle East is well positioned to sustain growth and support the evolving demands of global trade. 



FedEx powers green logistics with EV rollout in UAE

E-commerce boom, growing supply chains, and increasing trade routes are excellent for a growing economy, but they are not aligned with sustainability. By combining EVs, sustainable facilities, and data-driven insights, FedEx is showing how logistics can be both efficient and environmentally friendly.

 CT Bureau

FedEx is choosing a sustainable path in logistics and deliveries, making its operations in the UAE greener and smarter. The company has added 14 Mercedes-Benz eSprinter electric vans to its pickup and delivery fleet, making the UAE the first market in the Middle East to use this type of vehicle.

“EVs are proving their value across our global operations, and expanding our fleet in the UAE gives us an opportunity to reduce last-mile emissions, while supporting reliable delivery performance,” said Taarek Hinedi, Vice President, Operations, FedEx Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Africa. “This move also supports the UAE’s Net Zero by 2050 initiative and



Taarek Hinedi
Vice President, Operations
FedEx Middle East, Indian
Subcontinent and Africa

brings us closer to our goal of carbon-neutral operations by 2040.”

These electric vans handle daily delivery routes across the Emirates. Each van can carry up to three tonnes and travel about

Each electric van can carry up to three tonnes and travels around 380 km on a single charge

380 km on a single charge. Together, the new electric vans are expected to reduce around 148 MT of carbon emissions every year. This is a big step towards cleaner, more sustainable delivery operations in the region.

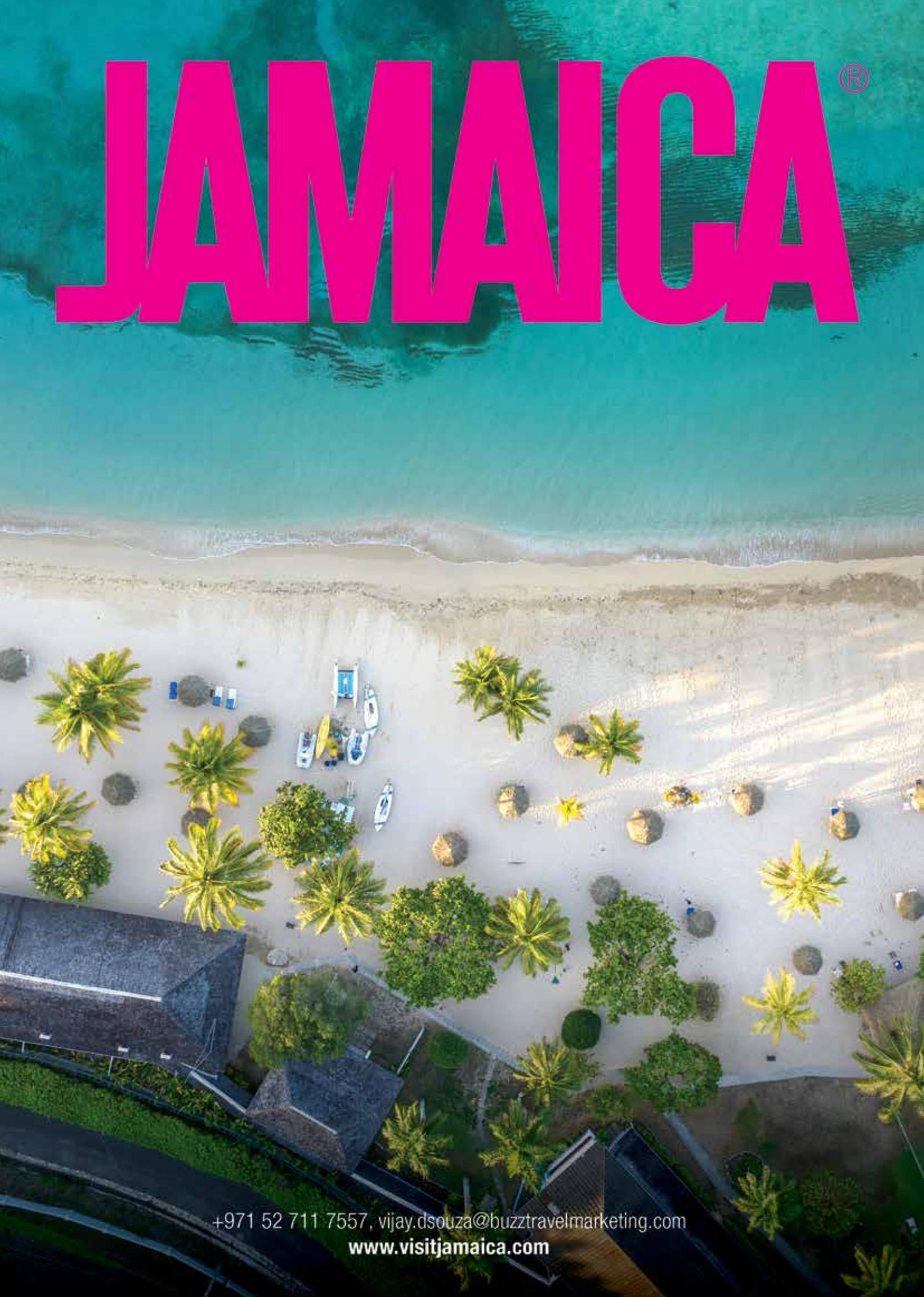
This deployment in the UAE is part of FedEx’s global plan to move toward a fully electric pickup and delivery fleet by 2040. Electric vans help reduce emissions in last-mile deliveries,

while keeping packages moving, which is important as e-commerce continues to grow in the country.

Apart from this, FedEx is also improving other parts of its logistics network. Its hub at Dubai World Central Airport meets Dubai Municipality Green Standards, uses energy-efficient systems, and plans to add solar panels soon. 



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An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The top half of the image shows clear, turquoise water with gentle waves lapping onto a wide, white sandy beach. The middle section of the beach is dotted with numerous palm trees and other tropical vegetation. Several small boats are beached on the sand. In the bottom left corner, the roofs of several traditional thatched-roof buildings are visible, suggesting a resort or village setting.

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Mega logistics park to alter Saudi supply chains

The need for logistics infrastructure has never been greater as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accelerates its industrial and trade growth. The new Grade A logistics park in Riyadh is a hub built to meet global standards, designed to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and help businesses scale in response to demand.

 CT Bureau

ROSHN Group and Agility Logistics Parks are moving ahead with plans to create a new Grade A logistics park in Riyadh, following the signing of terms for a joint venture.

The agreement was formalised on the sidelines of the PIF Private Sector Forum, underlining the focus on high-quality logistics infrastructure in the Kingdom.

“The move reflects long-term confidence in the market. Located at the crossroads of major intercontinental trade routes, the joint venture reflects our confidence in the long-term fundamentals of KSA’s logistics sector,” Tarek Sultan, Chairman, Agility, said.

At the heart of the plan is a large-scale development spread across 1 to 1.5 million sqm of land in a prime location. The site is expected to offer connectivity to one of KSA’s key gateways and major logistics corridors thereby making it attractive for distribution, light manufacturing, and regional fulfilment operations.

The emphasis is firmly on Grade A standards — modern warehouse design, higher clear heights, wide loading bays, efficient truck circulation, and



Sabah Barakat, Acting Group CEO, ROSHN Group, and Tarek Sultan, Chairman, Agility, at the signing ceremony

With this, the operators could move goods faster, work efficiently, and expand as demand grows

infrastructure built to handle large volumes smoothly. With this warehouse, the logistics operators could move goods faster, work efficiently, and easily expand as demand grows.

Demand for premium warehousing is rising, even as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia positions itself as a regional trade and distribution hub. Businesses want facilities that reduce handling time, improve inventory management, and support faster deliveries across the Kingdom. A well-planned logistics park can bring all of that together in one integrated environment.

The project is expected to create a major new logistics hub in Riyadh, built to global standards and designed to

support the Kingdom’s next phase of industrial and trade growth. 📍



AI platform for driving faster real-time logistics operations

With global logistics becoming more complex, Aramex is looking for smarter ways and means to manage its operations. The company's new artificial intelligence (AI) platform brings data, teams, and systems together, helping it respond faster and make better, quicker decisions across its network.

 CT Bureau

Aramex is inching closer to digital transformation with a new AI-first global data platform built on Google Cloud. The platform creates a single, unified view of data across the company's operations in 70 countries. It is designed to make logistics faster, more efficient, and smarter by giving teams real-time access to critical information.

The transformation will focus on three areas. First, high-speed data processing ensures that insights reach teams quickly, helping them take prompt decisions. Second, the system is highly flexible, allowing operations to adjust as market conditions change. Third, the platform provides reliable,



Françoise Russo
Chief Technology Officer
Aramex

consistent information for all departments, so that everyone works from the same numbers, and decisions are made based on correct data.

Moving from older systems to modern lakehouse architecture, the firm has created a framework linking various parts of the

It is designed to make logistics faster, more efficient, and smarter by giving teams access to vital information

business. From last-mile delivery teams to corporate strategy, all departments can access the same data at the same time. This helps reduce mistakes, improves efficiency, and ensures teams can respond quickly to customer needs or logistical challenges.

PHASED LAUNCH

The platform is being rolled out in phases to keep ops running smoothly, while

expanding across the global network. It is designed to handle regulatory and data requirements in every country from which Aramex operates.

By centralising and standardising data, the firm is building a foundation, supporting faster decision-making and real-time insights on a scale.

"Data powers modern logistics, but its true value lies in how it is harnessed. By building this AI-first platform, we are not just modernising our tech; we are enabling our teams to predict, adapt, and deliver faster," said Françoise Russo, Chief Technology Officer, Aramex. 🚚



QUICK FACTS

- ❖ AI-powered global platform on Google Cloud
- ❖ Operations in 70 countries
- ❖ Phased rollout for smooth operations
- ❖ Real-time insights with high-speed data
- ❖ Flexible system for changing conditions
- ❖ The AI platform helps the staff to deliver faster

Backing energy supply chains through logistics hub at SPARK

As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia speeds up industrial growth under Vision 2030, building logistics infra has become crucial to supporting KSA's expanding energy and manufacturing sectors. Large, integrated logistics hubs are being developed to improve cargo flow, storage, and supply chain efficiency.



CT Bureau

A new logistics hub is set to take shape in eastern KSA as it expands infrastructure to support its growing industrial and energy supply chains. ASMO, a JV between Saudi Aramco and DHL Supply Chain, has partnered with Bahrain-based investment firm Arcapita Group Holdings Limited to develop a 1.4 million sqm logistics facility at King Salman Energy Park (SPARK).

"ASMO's new logistics hub at SPARK helps strengthen Aramco's supply chain resilience by delivering a centralised, high-efficiency facility in the heart of KSA's energy sector. As an anchor customer, we recognise the value of ASMO's investments in logistics infra, showing their ambition to deliver innovative customer-focused solutions across the supply chain," said Sulaiman Al Rubaian, Senior Vice President, Procurement & Supply Chain Management, Aramco.



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

The project will be built through a forward funding structure. Under the pact, Arcapita will fund and keep ownership of the assets, while ASMO will develop, lease, and run the facility under a 22-year occupational lease.

Once completed, the site will include a 43,000 sqm temperature-controlled Grade-A warehouse designed to handle specialised cargo and sensitive materials. The development will also feature more than

Once completed, the project will include a temperature-controlled Grade-A warehouse

3,000 sqm of office and staff facilities and around 5,300 sqm of dedicated chemical storage.

"A large open yard covering 1.2 million sqm will support the storage and movement of heavy industrial equipment and materials. The project reflects the company's long-term focus on strengthening supply chain infrastructure in the Kingdom. This development reflects the strategic intent behind ASMO's mandate and reaffirms its role in enabling resilient and future-ready global supply chains," said Salem Al Huraish, Chairman, ASMO.

The facility is likely to play a vital role in supporting the supply chain ops of Saudi Aramco, its affiliates, and other firms operating in the Kingdom. Technology will be central to the project, he added.

IN SHORT

- ❖ 1.4 million sqm logistics hub at SPARK
- ❖ 43,000 sqm temperature-controlled warehouse
- ❖ 5,300 sqm chemical storage
- ❖ 1.2 million sqm open yard
- ❖ Robotics & automated storage systems
- ❖ 22-year ASMO lease & operations
- ❖ Supports Saudi Aramco & energy sector supply chains

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New logistics, warehousing facility to come up in RAKEZ

As more goods move across the Northern Emirates, Ras Al Khaimah is keeping up with the need for better storage and distribution. Indu's new facility at Al Hamra Industrial Zone shows how the emirate is becoming a hub for modern, flexible warehouses for different industries.

 CT Bureau

Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) has begun construction of a new logistics and warehousing facility by Indu at Al Hamra Industrial Zone. The facility will cover 5,839 sqm and is designed to provide modern storage solutions for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), hotel supplies, and food products across the Northern Emirates region.

The new warehouse is expected to offer a storage capacity of 12,000 cubic metres, giving businesses in the F&B and hospitality sectors the ability to manage rising demand efficiently.

"Indu's investment reinforces Ras Al Khaimah's position as a growing



Ramy Jallad
Group CEO
RAKEZ

logistics and distribution hub serving key sectors across the Northern Emirates. As demand rises across FMCG, hospitality, and food supply chains, scalable warehousing infrastructure becomes more vital. We are committed to providing investors with industrial land, streamlined processes, and end-to-end support needed

It forms a part of Indu's strategy to expand into multiple industries and meet logistics needs in RAK

to accelerate growth and deliver long-term value to the wider business ecosystem," said Ramy Jallad, Group CEO, RAKEZ.

The project is scheduled for completion in Q4. It forms a part of Indu's strategy to expand into multiple industries and meet growing logistics needs in Ras Al Khaimah. With the emirate scaling up its tourism and hospitality sectors, the need for modern,

scalable warehousing solutions that can handle high volumes of goods has never been higher.

"Indu has followed the 'Build It and They Will Come' approach. This strategic investment reflects the rise in activity across RAK and the demand for advanced logistics solutions, particularly in the FMCG and F&B sectors," said Kush Kishore Lakhani, Managing Director, Indu. "The facility will be set up to strengthen supply chains across the Northern Emirates. It will support hotels, restaurants, and food suppliers by providing storage for perishable and non-perishable products." 

AT A GLANCE

- ❖ Spread across 5,839 sqm, with capacity of 12,000 cbm
- ❖ Serves FMCG, hotels, food & F&B
- ❖ Will open in Q4 of this year
- ❖ Expands Indu ops across industries
- ❖ Strengthens supply chains of Northern Emirates
- ❖ RAKEZ provides land, approvals, and support



(Second from left) Mohamed Ismayil, Senior Manager, Key Accounts, RAKEZ; Alia Rabbani, Director, Key Accounts, RAKEZ; Ian Hunt, Chief Experience Officer, RAKEZ; Kush Kishore Lakhani, MD, Indu Logistics, and Ramy Jallad, Group CEO, RAKEZ

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ACCREDITATIONS



NAFL : National Association of Freight & Logistics

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Saudi Arabia emerges as regional e-commerce hub

With online shopping growing across the region, CJ Logistics saw KSA as a key base for regional e-commerce distribution. Increasing cross-border orders and faster delivery expectations pushed the firm to invest in a dedicated hub in Riyadh, reflecting its long-term plan to solidify its presence.

 CT Bureau

Extending a range of logistics solutions to agents worldwide, CJ Logistics, headquartered in Seoul, South Korea, works across global markets, supporting the growth of e-commerce and raising supply chain standards. The company's expansion into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with its first e-commerce logistics centre, aims to strengthen delivery services and boost e-commerce operations across the Middle East.

The Saudi Global Distribution Centre (GDC) is situated inside the Riyadh Special Integrated Logistics Zone at the King Khalid International Airport. The site will handle online orders for the Kingdom and support



Jonathan Song
Head, Global Business Division
CJ Logistics

deliveries to nearby countries such as the UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar.

EXPANDING NETWORK

The 20,000 sqm facility can store, pack, and complete customs clearance for up to 20,000 parcels a day. It was developed following a 2023 agreement between CJ Logistics and General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA). The project involved an investment of 60 billion South

The new centre in KSA is based on the firm's earlier GDC in Incheon, South Korea that opened in 2019

Korean won (around US\$ 41 million). Construction finished last year, and the firm carried out trial runs before the launch to fine-tune operations for e-commerce shipments.

"We run the Saudi GDC as a hub connecting the Middle East. By using our top-tier operational and technological capabilities, we aim to enhance cross-border logistics services and accelerate the globalisation of K-logistics," said Jonathan Song, Head, Global Business Division, CJ Logistics.

The new centre is based on the firm's earlier GDC in Incheon, South Korea that opened in 2019. That facility introduced large-scale automation to speed up deliveries and reduce costs across APAC. Inspired

by its success, CJ Logistics applied a similar model in Riyadh. Inside the Saudi GDC, automated guided vehicles move through a multi-shuttle system to retrieve goods from storage racks, reaching up to 10 metres high and 60 metres long.

The system follows a 'goods-to-person' model, where products are brought directly to workers. There is an 'order-to-person' set-up. Individual order boxes move along conveyor belts through different product zones, allowing staff to stay at one place, while items are added. This reduces manual movement and improves speed and accuracy. 🚚

GDC SNIPPETS

- ❖ Located at King Khalid International Airport
- ❖ Spread across 20,000 sqm
- ❖ Capacity of 20,000 parcels per day
- ❖ Serves KSA, UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar
- ❖ Developed along with GACA
- ❖ Backed by a US\$ 41 million investment





Airport-linked **logistics hub** deepens Rhenus' footprint

Every shipment and supply chain depends on careful planning, efficiency, and speed. Rhenus Logistics' new Abu Dhabi office shows how modern logistics can do more than move goods; it can help whole industries run smoothly, react quickly to opportunities, and support economic growth across the Middle East.

CT Bureau

Rhenus Logistics is strengthening its presence in the UAE by expanding into Abu Dhabi. Located next to Abu Dhabi International Airport, the new branch allows the firm to serve major clients efficiently, offering faster response times and seamless operations.

"Our location next to the airport gives us a strategic advantage," said Ameen Sainudeen, Branch Manager, Abu Dhabi office. "It allows us to deliver faster, more reliable logistics solutions and support the growth of industries that are driving the Middle East's economy."

The new branch runs as an ADAPZ free zone entity within Abu Dhabi Business Park I and functions as a branch of Rhenus' Dubai office. This expansion strengthens Rhenus Logistics' network in the UAE, giving the firm greater



Hassan Alzeer
Managing Director
Rhenus Logistics UAE

reach across critical sectors such as oil & gas, industrial, and aero parts.

Rhenus Logistics will provide end-to-end logistics services from this location. This includes air, ocean, and overland freight, customs brokerage, and warehousing. By combining these services, the company can manage complex supply chains for businesses in the region, making operations smoother, faster, and more reliable.

The new branch office will function as an ADAPZ free zone entity within Abu Dhabi Business Park I

The Abu Dhabi office enhances the firm's ability to handle large, time-sensitive ops. The company has been appointed the 'exclusive official logistics and freight forwarding partner' for major exhibitions in the UAE, showing its capacity to support event logistics and traditional freight requirements.

Commenting on the expansion, Hassan Alzeer, Managing Director, Rhenus Logistics UAE, said, "Expanding into Abu Dhabi reinforces our commitment to the UAE market and strengthens our ability to

deliver high-quality end-to-end supply chain solutions. This new location enhances our regional footprint and positions us closer to key industries that rely on trusted logistics partners to support their operations."

By setting up a presence in Abu Dhabi, the company can better connect with businesses across the Middle East with global markets, streamline supply chains, and respond quickly to customer demands. 📍



LODD expands autonomous air network with DHL, AAMG

By combining unmanned aircraft technology with strong logistics partners, the company is exploring new ways to move goods and services more efficiently, safely, and sustainably across cities and regions.

 CT Bureau

LODD Autonomous is reimagining the way cargo is moved and pushing the boundaries of air logistics in the UAE and beyond through two key collaborations. The company has signed an agreement with DHL Express to explore integrating its unmanned Hili aircraft into DHL's express delivery network, while teaming up with Ambitious Air Mobility Group (AAMG) to develop and potentially deploy up to 50 hybrid cargo aircraft.

“As the global leader in international express delivery, speed and reliability are essential to maintaining our strong market position. In fast-growing regions, such as the UAE, where road congestion poses new challenges, innovations such as LODD's unmanned Hili aircraft present a sustainable way forward to meet the rising demand effectively,” said Bachi Spiga, Vice President, Network Operations, Middle East and North Africa, DHL Express.

The collaboration focuses on using Hili for last-mile and middle-mile delivery operations. Next measures include joint operational workshops to define routes, payload optimisation, turnaround times, and utilise cases where unmanned aircraft

could complement DHL's existing fleet.

With as many as 40 locations and around 350 vehicles, the company is facing growing road congestion and rising delivery demand, especially in the urban areas. Hili's vertical take-off



and landing (VTOL) capability offers a practical and sustainable solution.





Bachi Spiga, VP, Network Operations, ME and North Africa, DHL Express; Irina Albanese, Head, Innovation, ME and Africa, DHL Customer Solutions & Innovation, and Rashid Mattar Almanai, CEO, LODD, at the agreement signing ceremony

“Partnering with DHL reflects the UAE’s ambition to lead in advanced air mobility. Hili is designed for regional operational demands, from dense urban areas to long-distance routes. Our focus is on safe, reliable, and scalable deployment,” said Rashid Mattar Almanai, CEO, LODD.

LODD & AAMG

LODD and AAMG signed an agreement to collaborate on the development and potential acquisition of up to 50 Hili hybrid VTOL aircraft. Their plan is for 25 aircraft to fly in Europe and 25 in the UAE and Middle East, with experimental trials scheduled between fourth quarter of 2026 and fourth quarter of 2027. The aircraft is designed to carry a payload of up to 250 kg over distances of more than 700 km, targeting

LODD, AAMG signed a pact to collaborate on the development and potential acquisition of up to 50 Hili VTOLs

middle-mile and hub-to-hub cargo operations.

The collaboration links development milestones with real-world deployment pathways. The agreement covers joint fleet planning, logistics deployment, experimental operations, and market development across Europe and the Gulf region. Both companies will explore advanced materials, production efficiencies, and integration of LODD’s

autonomous software across selected aircraft, averred Almanai.

By combining DHL’s delivery ability with AAMG’s infrastructure and LODD’s autonomous technology, the Hili platform could transform cargo logistics in the region. Its VTOL

capability and long range allow flexible operations in congested urban areas, industrial hubs, and longer regional routes, offering a scalable model for middle- and last-mile delivery. These partnerships place the UAE and Europe at the forefront of the next generation of cargo air mobility. 🚀

DHL tie-up

- Hili aircraft for last- and middle-mile delivery
- Route, payload, and turnaround planning
- VTOL carries 250 kg up to 700 km
- Reduces urban congestion
- Fast, sustainable, scalable delivery

AAMG collab

- Up to 50 hybrid Hili aircraft
- 25 in Europe, 25 in UAE/Middle East
- Experimental trials from Q4 2026–Q4 2027
- Fleet planning and market development
- Advanced materials and autonomous software

Technology model connects GCC e-comm to global markets

Gulf Warehousing Company is making complex e-commerce businesses across multiple markets simpler. To this end, it has built a single, integrated operating model that allows online business to manage inventory, orders, and deliveries seamlessly across regions — without rebuilding supply chains for every market.



 CT Bureau

Central to this approach is GWC's partnership with Quivo, a technology platform, that links e-commerce businesses to 40 marketplaces, including Amazon and Shopify. Quivo's fulfilment network across Europe and the USA complements GWC's GCC logistics infra, giving business an integrated platform for regional and global growth.



Matthew Kearns
Group CEO
Gulf Warehousing Company

"We are presenting an integrated platform that provides e-commerce businesses direct access to infra designed for multi-market ops. By combining GWC's logistics abilities with Quivo's commerce and fulfilment tech, we offer a single model for reducing complexity and backing disciplined expansion across markets," said Matthew Kearns, Group CEO, GWC.

The model covers each and every stage of logistics. From inbound shipments and warehousing to last-mile delivery and returns management, GWC also provides an end-to-end solution. It is built to handle demand fluctuations, support omnichannel sales, and offer operational visibility as businesses expand into new markets and channels.

The approach positions the company as a significant enabler of e-commerce growth

With this integrated set-up, businesses can scale efficiently across the GCC region, Europe, and the USA, while keeping processes unified and transparent. The model also purges fragmented systems and duplicated workflows, ensuring consistent execution and operational control.

The approach positions the company as a significant enabler of e-commerce growth. It helps regional businesses expand internationally and supports

global players entering the GCC nations, aligning disciplined logistics execution with a standardised, technology-enabled operating layer.

This combination strengthens the company's role as a central hub for multi-market e-commerce, making global expansion smoother and more reliable for its partners.



SONO

HOTELS & RESORTS



Steering the future of logistics with ITC's self-driving trucks

The way products are moved is changing, and technology is navigating logistics. Abu Dhabi is diving into this shift through its first pilot project for autonomous trucks. The move is testing how self-driving trucks can move goods safely within industrial areas, thus advancing logistics and supply chains.

 ITC Bureau

The Integrated Transport Centre (ITC), part of the Department of Municipalities and Transport, Abu Dhabi, is overseeing the initiative in partnership with Autotech, an international company that develops autonomous vehicles, and AD Ports Group. The pilot is being conducted within Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi (KEZAD), a hub for industrial and logistics activities.

“This drive contributes to enhancing efficiency of transport ecosystem, backing the competitiveness of economic sectors, and reinforces Abu Dhabi’s position as a leading regional hub in adopting smart mobility solutions and autonomous systems, in line with the UAE National Strategy for AI 2031,” said Dr Abdulla Hamad AlGhfeli, Acting Director-General, ITC.



Dr Abdulla Hamad AlGhfeli
Acting Director-General
ITC

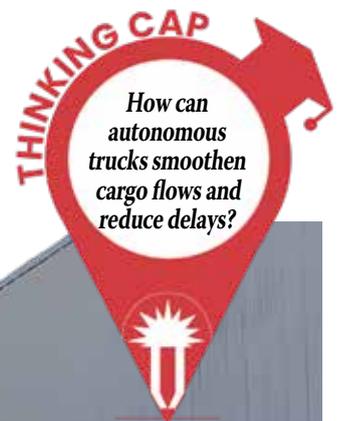
This project marks the operation of autonomous trucks for freight transport in MENA. It shows the role of autonomous technology across different modes of transport, from road to industrial logistics. By shifting the focus to trucks, the pilot is testing how self-driving vehicles can support the movement of goods within a controlled industrial environment.

During the pilot, autonomous trucks ran along specific routes in KEZAD, following the safety standards

During the pilot, autonomous trucks ran along specific routes in KEZAD, following the safety and operational standards. In 2025, the tech was adapted to meet local road conditions and the needs of logistics transport. This included ensuring AI-based driving systems could run safely, efficiently, and reliably within an industrial setting.

The ITC sees the project as part of a broader

effort to prepare Abu Dhabi’s transport ecosystem for smart and autonomous mobility. The project highlights how technology is altering logistics in the region. Autonomous trucks could streamline cargo movement, reduce delays, and support the growth of Abu Dhabi’s industrial and supply chain sectors, positioning the emirate as a leader in modern, technology-driven logistics solutions.



Developing KSA's **logistics zone** by investing US\$ 36.5 million

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is set to expand its logistics capacity after the Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones (Modon) signed an investment agreement with Medlog, the logistics arm of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), to develop a new logistics zone in Jeddah Third Industrial City.

 CT Bureau

The new logistics zone project will include warehouses and is likely to be built with an investment of SAR137 million (US\$ 36.5 million). The development is aimed at strengthening logistics infrastructure and improving cargo handling and distribution capabilities in the region.

“The Kingdom is a strategic corridor with access to rapidly growing markets across three major continents. Medlog can now deliver unmatched solutions and value to our customers. Building this modern, integrated logistics hub, we contribute to KSA's global competitive advantage and sustainable economic growth,” said Hisham Al Ansari, President, Medlog Saudi Arabia.

Under the agreement, Modon will assign around 100,000 sqm of logistics space for the facility. Once operational, the site is likely to handle 60,000 TEUs annually by 2038. The zone will support cargo storage, container handling, and distribution activities, helping companies move goods more efficiently within the Kingdom and global markets.

The facility will offer a range of logistics services such as warehousing, freight handling, distribution, and customs clearance. These



Eng. Majed Al-Argoubi, CEO, Modon, and Hisham Al Ansari, President, Medlog Saudi Arabia

services will help streamline supply chains and improve cargo flow through the industrial city.

Medlog manages logistics infra across 80 nations and manages 8.5 million sqm of facilities worldwide

Currently, Medlog manages logistics infrastructure across 80 countries and manages more than 8.5 million sqm of facilities worldwide. Its presence in the project is likely to bring international logistics ability

and operational capabilities to the development.

The new zone is part of KSA's effort to strengthen its logistics sector and build modern infrastructure to support growing trade volumes. Developing logistics facilities within industrial cities will improve connectivity between manufacturing hubs, ports, and global supply chains.

The project will likely contribute around US\$ 11.73 million to KSA GDP and create around 200 direct jobs. As operations grow over time, the logistics zone could support more supply chain services and attract more firms looking for integrated logistics solutions in the Kingdom. 🇸🇦

AT A GLANCE

- ❖ Investment is SAR137 mn (US\$ 36.5 mn)
- ❖ 100,000 sqm facility, 60,000 TEUs capacity by 2038
- ❖ Services: Warehousing, freight, distribution, customs clearance
- ❖ Streamlines supply chains and cargo flow regionally and globally
- ❖ Brings Medlog's global logistics ability (about 80 countries)
- ❖ Strengthens KSA logistics and trade



MPCI norms enhance risk assessment and cargo oversight

Maritime Pre-load Cargo Information is a digital security initiative by UAE’s National Advance Information Centre to enhance supply chain visibility and security for all cargo entering the UAE. This transparency allows forwarders to take responsibility, stay ahead of potential risks, and ensure cargo moves safely from origin to destination.

 CT Bureau

Freight forwarders in the UAE must file MPCI, which was scheduled to become compulsory from 1 April but is now set for implementation on 30 June. Filings must be submitted before cargo leaves the port of origin to strengthen supply chain safety and security.

consignee, commodity, and HS codes. “This gives authorities the ability to run checks and follow up with forwarders or shipping lines if there are questions. While the process adds complexity, it is intended to strengthen the safety and security of cargo in the UAE,” said Toby Edwards, Director, Trade Tech.

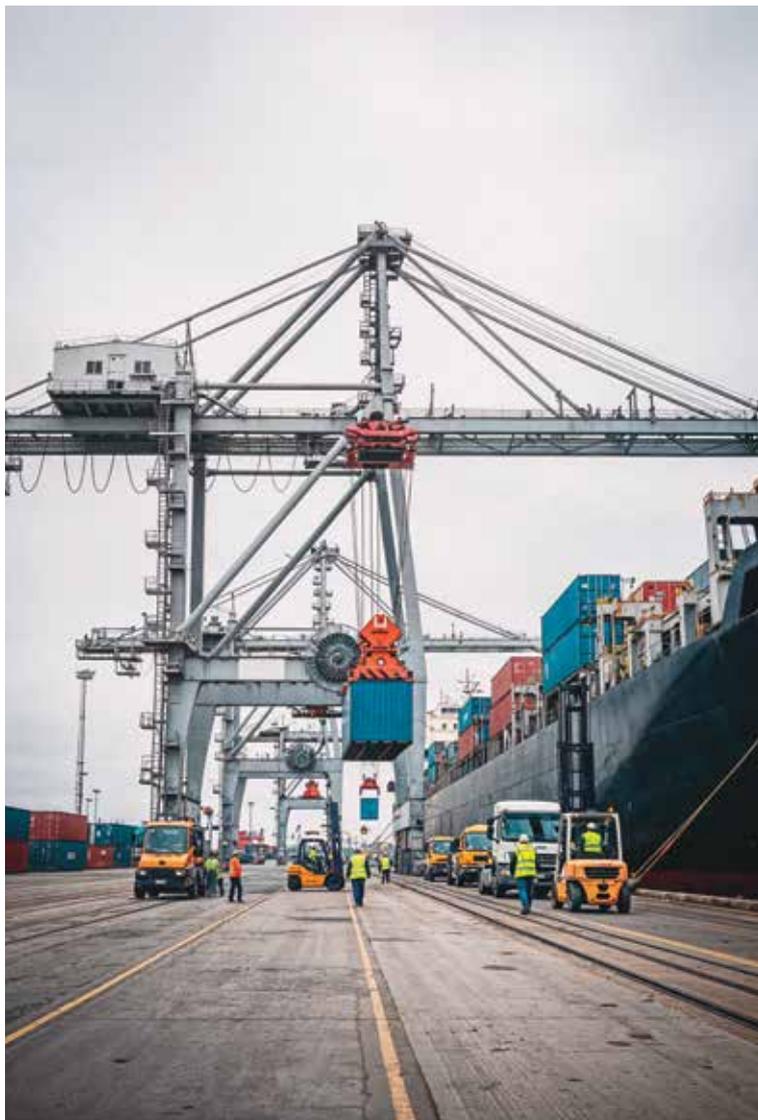
WHAT IS MPCI?

Maritime Pre-load Cargo Information (MPCI) is an advanced cargo manifest programme designed to improve the safety and security of the supply chain. The programme applies to all containerised ocean freight imports, including full container load and less-than-container load shipments.

Freight forwarders should ensure cargo details are filed before loading begins overseas

MPCI gives authorities early visibility of shipments, including shipper,

Instead of receiving the shipment details shortly before arrival, freight forwarders must now



greater responsibility on freight forwarders to ensure shipment data is submitted accurately and on time. “Under the system, cargo details must be shared with the authorities before goods arrive in the UAE, allowing regulators to review information in advance and assess potential risks,” added Edwards.

This early data submission also helps strengthen oversight of shipments moving through the supply chain and supports efforts to prevent security threats. Industry bodies such as the National Association of Freight and Logistics (NAFL) are working with members to raise awareness about the requirements and help companies adapt their processes accordingly.

By improving transparency and compliance, the measures aim to enhance the overall safety and integrity of cargo operations, while ensuring monitoring of global shipments entering the country. NAFL is working towards educating its members about MPCl and the steps needed for compliance with the new rules. 🇦🇪



Toby Edwards
Director
Trade Tech

AT A GLANCE

- ❖ **Cargo data must be filed before loading**
- ❖ **Responsibility lies with UAE-based freight forwarders**
- ❖ **To improve cargo security, supply chain visibility**
- ❖ **Helps authorities assess risks**
- ❖ **NAFL supports members with awareness and MPCl compliance guidance**

ensure the cargo information is filed before loading begins overseas. One of the key changes for forwarders is liability. Even if the shipment originates from another country, the UAE-based forwarder remains responsible for the MPCl filing.

Overseas partners cannot file independently unless they are linked to a UAE company. As a result, freight forwarders in the UAE must work closely with their agents abroad to ensure the required information is given correctly and on time.

CARGO SECURITY

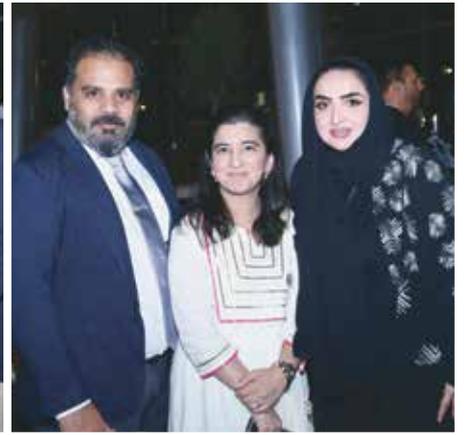
MPCl ensures cargo security across UAE's supply chain. The new cargo security framework places



NAFL hosts **Ramadan fete** for air cargo, logistics experts

National Air Freight and Logistics Association (NAFL) organised a special Ramadan gathering for partners and stakeholders, bringing key figures from across the air cargo, logistics, and supply chain sectors. The gathering provided a chance to reflect on the spirit of collaboration that drives the industry forward.







IAG Cargo is **new GHA** for QR Cargo flights at Dublin

The tie-up is set to reshape the way shipments move between Dublin airport and the world. QR Cargo operates 17 weekly belly-hold flights between Dublin and Doha, linking Irish businesses to markets across the Gulf and Asian regions. It has launched a programme to make handling faster and more transparent.

 CT Bureau

Cargo operations at Dublin International Airport are entering a new phase: IAG Cargo has been appointed as Ground Handling Agent (GHA) for Qatar Airways Cargo (QR Cargo) for all QR Cargo flights. The tie-up is set to reshape the way shipments move between Ireland and the world. This means IAG Cargo will now manage handling for QR Cargo flights at Dublin airport.

QR Cargo operates 17 weekly belly-hold flights between Dublin and Doha, linking Irish businesses to markets across the Middle East, Asia and beyond. By bringing handling under one roof, the two carriers aim to create smoother processes, better coordination, and more consistent service for customers.

“As the world’s leading cargo carrier, we seek like-minded partners who share our commitment to operational excellence, reliability, and customer service. This partnership with IAG Cargo at Dublin ensures seamless, quality handling for our customers in Ireland and beyond,” said Mark Drusch, Chief Officer Cargo, QR Cargo.

The move is part of the wider Global Cargo Joint Business announced last year between IAG Cargo, MASkargo, and QR Cargo. The goal is simple.



Mark Drusch
Chief Officer
QR Cargo

Operational alignment at key hubs and a more connected global network. IAG Cargo



has also been expanding its third-party handling services in recent months, including new operations for MASkargo at London Heathrow, proving its growing role as a trusted handling partner.

GOING DIGITAL

QR Cargo is pushing ahead with digital change on the ramp. The airline has launched a Ramp Digitalisation Programme

Ramp teams can now verify ULDs, confirm cargo loading details, and send live updates to load control

designed to make handling more transparent, faster, and fully paperless. A key feature of this programme is a digital tool called Ramp Offload and Load Supervision. It

replaces paper-based loading reports with a real-time digital system.

Ramp teams can now verify Unit Load Devices (ULDs), confirm cargo loading details, and send live updates to load control. This limits errors, reduces paperwork, and helps flights take off on time.

Together, these measures show how the companies are blending strong local operations with smart technology to deliver a faster, safer, and more reliable cargo experience. 🚀

Dublin tie-up

- IAG Cargo is the new GHA for QR Cargo at Dublin airport
- 17 weekly Dublin–Doha flights
- Closer alignment under joint business
- Expanded third-party handling role

Digital ramp

- Paperless ramp ops launched
- Real-time load verification
- Instant updates to load control
- QR scanning and SLA monitoring
- Better safety and faster turnaround

Upcoming Events

APRIL

- 15-17 Manufacturing, Logistics India Exhibition & Summit 2026**
New Delhi, India
- 16-17 Global Supply Chain & Logistics Summit**
Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 20 Saudi Warehousing & Logistics Expo 2026**
Riyadh, KSA
- 20-24 Hannover Messe**
Hanover, Germany
- 21-22 Procurement & Supply Chain Live**
Chicago, USA
- 22-24 LogiMAT China 2026**
Shenzhen, China
- 26-28 ISM World 2026**
Denver, USA
- 27 Nordic Air Cargo Symposium 2026**
Riga, Latvia
- 27 X2 Annual Conference 2026**
Antalya, Türkiye
- 27-28 Cargo Facts Routes & Airports Conference 2026**
Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 28-30 Cargo Facts EMEA 2026**
Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 29 International Conference on Aviation Logistics and Air Cargo Management**
Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 29-30 9th Supply Chain & Logistics Nexus Conference**
Zurich, Switzerland

MAY

- 1-2 Unchained Summit**
Dubai, UAE
- 6 Future World Expo**
Dubai, UAE
- 8 GLA Global Logistics Conference**
Shenzhen, China
- 8 Logistics 4.0 and Digital Supply Transformation**
Abu Dhabi, UAE

For more information contact: talk@ddppl.com

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

Riyadh Cargo drives e-commerce, logistics

The launch of Riyadh Cargo signalled a new phase for air freight in KSA. The airline is not just adding capacity but is positioning itself to support KSA's expanding trade, says **Pravin Singh, Global Head, Cargo, Riyadh Air**.



What does the launch of cargo ops signify for Riyadh Air?

The launch of Riyadh Cargo marks a step in our commitment to the cargo business. With 122 wide-body aircraft on order, we are building substantial capacity to serve the region and beyond. Cargo is now a strategic pillar for Riyadh Air, and this operation allows



Pravin Singh
Global Head, Cargo
Riyadh Air

us to offer reliable, scalable solutions that meet growing market demand. This is just the beginning of our journey to set up Riyadh Cargo as a trusted and high-performing player in regional and global trade.

How are you responding to the e-commerce boom?

If you look at the key trade lanes between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other markets, e-commerce has delivered a strong



year-on-year growth and is expected to grow further. Our focus is to enable that demand by creating products and services aligned with what customers need. We have invested upfront in facilities and partnerships, and are ensuring that our customers get what they truly want in terms of quality and service standards.

How do you plan to compete with established cargo hubs?

We are focused on building a scalable foundation that customers trust and believe in. Anything beyond that is a distraction. Our priority is to set up a reliable, high-capacity operation that meets market demand.

Which industries are driving air cargo demand in Riyadh?

The growth in the Kingdom is broad-based and spans multiple sectors. Pharmaceuticals will play an

important role, but there is substantial investment in industries such as manufacturing, MCG, oil and gas, and logistics.

Vision 2030 is driving growth across the Kingdom, creating new opportunities and demand for reliable cargo solutions. The airline is positioned to support these diverse requirements, offering scalable, high-quality services that align with the evolving requirements of businesses and industries across KSA.



SolitAir enters Eritrea with new Asmara route

Eritrea has joined the SolitAir network with the launch of a new service to Asmara. The airline has already started ops. The move is expected to improve cargo linkage, support local businesses, and make trade flows smoother between Eritrea and key markets. Asmara serves as the main political and commercial centre. By linking Asmara to its wider network, SolitAir is opening up more direct cargo routes for exporters and importers. Businesses in Eritrea will now have improved access to regional hubs, helping them move goods faster.



Turkish Cargo ups supply chain security with TAPA



Turkish Cargo SmartIST facility has renewed its Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA) FSR Level A certification, confirming the security standards for high-value and sensitive cargo. The facility continues to provide secure handling, strict access control, and advanced risk management, ensuring that shipments are protected throughout the logistics chain. The renewal highlights the carrier's commitment to safeguarding goods while supporting global trade. Turkish Cargo meets globally recognised standards for secure ops.

Savills warehouse to enhance auto logistics



Savills Middle East has launched a brand new Grade A warehouse in Dubai's National Industries Park, offering units from 5,376 sqm up to 67,934 sqm. The project is designed for modern, high-efficiency logistics operations, featuring 15-metre clear eaves, FM1 floor flatness, temperature-controlled environments at 24°C, minimum 500kW power per unit, and at least four dock-level loading doors per 5,362 sqm. These facilities have modular designs, giving businesses flexibility to scale operations quickly.

Ethiopian Cargo, Ethiopost simplify cross-border e-comm

Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services along with Ethiopian Postal Service Enterprise (Ethiopost) launched a Cargo-to-Post Conversion Service at its ADD Hub for transit e-commerce loads. The service allows bulk cargo to be converted into postal streams, enabling cost-efficient last-mile delivery through 190 postal networks. It expands access to African markets via a single transit hub and simplifies cross-border e-commerce distribution. This service is designed to make e-commerce logistics faster, more efficient, and scalable for firms looking to reach African markets from a single point of transit.



Ethiopost invites e-commerce platforms, consolidators, postal operators, and the logistics providers to collaborate and leverage this novel solution.

Saudia Cargo expands fleet to boost logistics capacity

Saudia Cargo has added an A330-300P2F to its fleet to enhance operational capacity and strengthen its logistics network. The new freighter will help the airline handle more cargo, reach major destinations faster, and improve overall supply chain efficiency across local and global markets. The aircraft's addition comes as Saudia Cargo continues to expand its presence in key logistics hubs. By increasing fleet capacity, the carrier can support higher volumes of goods, including time-sensitive and high-value shipments, ensuring smoother, more reliable delivery for customers. Enhanced capacity allows Saudia Cargo to link efficiently with global markets, facilitating faster import and export flows.



MSC Air Cargo launches Milan–Shanghai freighter

MSC Air Cargo is starting a new scheduled freighter between Milan Malpensa in Italy and Shanghai Pudong in China. The service began on 3 March and will fortify the airline’s presence on key Asia–Europe trade routes, meeting growing demand for long-haul capacity. Jannie Davel, CEO, MSC Air Cargo, said the new route “marks a vital step in strengthening our long-haul network and providing reliable capacity on critical Asia–Europe corridors. Flights will use MSC Air Cargo’s Boeing 777-200 freighters”.



New direct cargo flights on Rome–Seattle route



Global GSA Group and Alaska Airlines joined hands to launch direct cargo flights between Rome International Airport and Seattle, starting late April. Under the pact, Global GSA Group will act as GSSA for the airline in Italy. Aytekin Saray, CEO, Global GSA Group, said the route for Italian exports will benefit the forwarders with a direct link to the Pacific Northwest. Ian Morgan, VP, Cargo, Alaska Airlines, added the partnership fortifies the airline’s cargo network and will grow freight ops from Seattle to Europe and Asia.

Rhenus expands ops in Tangier to support cargo hubs

Rhenus Group has strengthened its presence in Morocco by moving its Tangier office to a new location. The office is spread across 158 sqm. It is located close to the industrial and logistics zone around Tangier Med Port, the fastest-growing cargo hubs in the Mediterranean. The port handled record volumes last year, including 11 million containers and 160 million tonnes of cargo. This growth has turned northern Morocco into a vital base for supply chains and manufacturing. By moving closer to major customers, Rhenus hopes to improve service and speed up daily ops. The new workspace also has updated meeting rooms and improved work areas.



KN to build cargo warehouse at Frankfurt



Kühne+Nagel (KN) is expanding its ops by setting up a new cargo warehouse at Frankfurt Airport. The facility will be built in CargoCity South and may be ready by 2028-end. Fraport will oversee construction, while KN has signed a long-term lease in this regard. The warehouse will cover 7,600 sqm, with 1,100 sqm more for offices, among others. It will have 16 gates and truck docks. The building will follow strict environmental standards aiming for Gold certification from the German Sustainable Building Council.

dnata to enhance Zurich capacity by 50%

dnata is set to boost its capacity at Zurich Airport by 50 per cent with a new facility opening in early 2027. The expansion will increase annual handling from 60,000 to 90,000 tonnes, replace the aging Fracht West warehouse, includes a dedicated pharma with temperature-controlled zone for specialised shipments. Cargo volumes at Zurich remain strong. dnata handled 56,000 tonnes in 2025, up nearly 4 per cent from the previous year, reflecting ongoing demand for reliable cargo services. The building will feature 8,000 sqm of warehouse space and covered outdoor areas, as well as modern equipment, including a ULD material handling system.



Flughafen Zürich AG is investing CHF40 million in infrastructure, while dnata contributes CHF6 million for its equipment. The phased move will ensure services continue smoothly throughout the transition.

American Airlines Cargo, Rotata hike digital sales

American Airlines Cargo is expanding its digital tools by partnering with Rotata to improve its commercial ops. Roger Samways, VP, Commercial, American Airlines Cargo, said the new tools will help teams engage with customers and focus on the opportunities. Both firms are working together to tailor tech to fit the carrier's ops and long-term growth plans, Ryan Keyrouse, CEO, Rotata said. The carrier will implement Rotata's Sales Cockpit and Sales Steering systems to help its teams make better use of data.



European Cargo to launch China flights from Teesside



European Cargo plans to start freighters between China and Teesside Airport and set up a new base at the airport. The service is likely to begin early March. Flights will run five times a week using A340-600 converted freighters. Each aircraft can carry up to 76 tonnes of cargo and offers 440 cubic metres of space. The airport has not confirmed which Chinese cities will be served, but the carrier already operates flights from Chengdu and Chongqing. The carrier will invest several million pounds in a new base at Teesside Airport.

Cathay Cargo moves elite horses to Hong Kong



A string of high-value sports horses were ferried from Europe to Hong Kong on a cargo charter by Cathay Cargo and CargoLand at Liège Airport. The horses were heading to Hong Kong. The transport was arranged with the help of Peden Bloodstock, a firm known for moving elite sport horses across the world. Before departure from Liège Airport, the horses stayed at the airport's equine facility. The stable can hold up to 54 horses, besides veterinary care. During the flight, temperature inside the aircraft was kept at 15°C.

Bridges Air Cargo launches Embraer 190 freighter

Bridges Air Cargo has started ops with its first converted Embraer E190F. The aircraft completed its first flight from Cologne to Larnaca on 9 March, carrying time-sensitive express cargo. The jet will now support express network ops across Europe, the Gulf, and Africa. Guy Bridges, CEO, Bridges Group, highlighted the company spent the past year preparing for the launch. This included developing a custom container system and specialised handling processes to support the aircraft operations. Bridges Air Cargo recently obtained an AOC in Malta, allowing it to expand freighter services. The



carrier is part of Embraer's P2F conversion programme, developed to meet growing e-commerce demand and improve cargo connectivity to smaller markets.

TAP Air Portugal boosts India cargo with Aeroprime

TAP Air Portugal (TAP) has appointed Aeroprime Group as its exclusive Cargo GSSA for India. The move aims to strengthen TAP's cargo ops in the lucrative Indian market. Starting this month, the group will handle TAP's cargo sales, marketing, and operational coordination. The company plans to use its regional presence, tech-driven tools, and relations with forwarders and logistics partners to grow TAP's business in India. "India is a high-potential market for our cargo business," said Bruno Aires, Senior Director, Global Cargo. "Working with Aeroprime fortifies our local presence and helps us serve the Indian cargo community better, while expanding global reach."



Movements



DP WORLD Dubai

Ahmad Yousef Al-Hassan has been appointed CEO and MD in DP World GCC. In his new role, he will oversee the firm's integrated operations across the GCC region, including the UAE, KSA, Oman, and the Upper Gulf markets, strengthening regional trade and supply chain connectivity. Al-Hassan joined the company in 2010.



ETHIOPIAN CARGO Dubai

Aschalew Endale has been appointed as Cargo Manager for the Middle East region. In his new role, he will oversee air cargo operations across the Gulf region, drive efficiency, service excellence, and operational growth. Endale has held many leadership roles, including Manager Airport Services, Traffic and Sales Manager.



DNATA Zanzibar

Marwan Essa has been appointed MD, Zanzibar ops, dnata, effective immediately. As the first Emirati to lead one of dnata's global airport ops, he will oversee handling and cargo ops, driving excellence for customers and partners. Essa has held multiple roles in dnata across the UAE and Zanzibar, and served as Head, Operations and Acting MD.



FRANKFURT CARGO SERVICES Germany

Thomas Schürmann has been appointed MD, Germany, in Frankfurt Cargo Services, a subsidiary of WFS, effective April. He brings more than 20 years of cargo and management experience, including at Etihad Airways, and will lead FCS, strengthening operations at the Frankfurt Airport.



CHAPMAN FREEBORN United Kingdom

Gabrielius Morkunas has joined Chapman Freeborn as Chief Financial Officer, strengthening the company's executive leadership with global finance expertise. In his new role, Morkunas will focus on building finance structures, supporting priorities, and enabling day-to-day operations as Chapman Freeborn scales globally.



4RCARGO Poland

Olga Palec-Furga has joined 4RCargo as COO. In her new role, she will support the senior management team in driving expansion into new markets while maintaining local relations. Palec-Furga will also consolidate 4RCargo's position in Eastern Europe and shape the growth of the company in the cargo sector.



OMAN AIR CARGO Thailand

Stephan Ribouleau has been appointed Regional Sales Manager, Far East, in Oman Air Cargo. His new role aims to fortify Oman Air Cargo's presence in the Far East, supporting trade between the Gulf and Asia. Ribouleau's regional expertise positions him to drive growth and expand Oman Air Cargo's network in this strategic market.



MENZIES AVIATION Edinburgh

John Frame has been appointed Chief Legal & Sustainability Officer in Menzies Aviation, effective 1 September. In his new role, he will oversee the firm's global legal, compliance, governance, and sustainability functions. His leadership and experience position him to drive the firm's continued growth, while enhancing governance and sustainability.

ENABLING THE RISE OF A NEW ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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It's never just an address,
which is why we go beyond borders with our partners to deliver