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DIGITAL BOOM USHERS new logistics era

Change in air cargo and logistics, which began a few years ago, was put in place in terms of developing infrastructure, setting the standard for a future-ready era. Some of the focus areas include creating smart airports to enable seamless cargo flow across borders. Growth of e-commerce, coupled with consumer expectations, have impacted the sector.



 Dr Shehara Rizly Fernando

New technology has become a natural gateway to enable seamless air cargo services over the past few years in the Middle East. From smart airports to digital corridors, the air cargo industry has been evolving using technology such as AI, blockchain, and IoT to enable smarter, faster, and more transparent cargo processes.

The region is the epicentre of all cargo movements as it connects the East and West and the North and South. It is not just a resilient region, but one that has been working towards the future through various mechanisms ensuring that the air cargo, logistics, and supply chain sectors are at a higher level in the years to come.

The e-commerce sector witnessed unprecedented

growth as consumer behaviour patterns changed and became more demanding than ever before. Faster delivery, efficiency, and seamless operations became important criteria for the region. Expansion of warehouses, and general operations, became key factors to ensure that customers receive the goods faster than anticipated.

Air cargo, logistics, and supply chain in the Middle East have been transforming over the past few years. Today, they are well on their way to a lucrative future, promising seamless service with efficiency and cross-border connections. **CARGOTALK** spoke with industry experts who share their insights.





Faster cargo deliveries reshaping strategies

Smart airports, and digital corridors are set to reshape the way air cargo moves across borders. With the integration of AI, blockchain, and IoT, one will see faster, more transparent cargo processes — enabling predictive planning and seamless data exchange between airlines, handlers, and authorities. As a GSA, Airglow views these advancements as key to building efficiency and reliability for our partner airlines.”



Rohit Thakwani
CEO
Airglow Aviation

“With the integration of advanced technology, one will see faster and more transparent cargo processes.”

Smart airports essential to growth

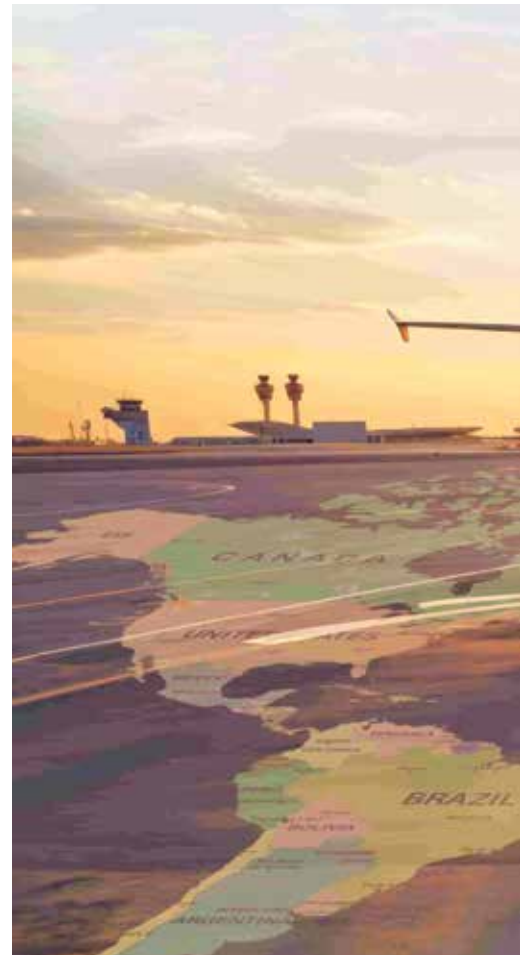
Dubai’s Digital Corridor and KSA’s Smart Logistics Hubs are enabling seamless cargo flow through real-time data exchange, automated customs processes, and AI-driven tracking systems. These platforms enhance transparency, and optimise



Abid Hamza
GM, Business Development
Fast Logistics Cargo FZCO

“These platforms enhance transparency, and optimise multimodal linkage across air, sea, and land routes.”

multimodal linkage across air, sea, and land routes. Smart airports and digital trade corridors are at the heart of the region’s strategy to become a global logistics hub. Surge in e-commerce is changing regional supply chain networks.”





Tech solutions redefining cargo ops

Smart airports and digital trade corridors are altering the landscape by facilitating end-to-end visibility, speed, and transparency across borders. AI-driven customs, IoT-enabled cargo tracking, and secure digital documentation are enhanc-



Chaminda Perera
Head, Cargo
Sri Lankan Airlines

“AI-driven customs pre-clearance, cargo tracking and secure digital documentation enhancing global trade.”

ing global trade. They eliminate manual inspections, decrease dwell times, and enable stakeholders to function within a single system.

Digital corridors enhancing efficiency

Smart airports and digital corridors streamline cargo transportation to an automated ecosystem, making it transparent with real-time information, cutting process time, duplicating efforts, and enhancing efficiency. Ethiopian incorporates various tech to its operations, advancing in the smart path and digital ecosystem. The growth of e-commerce is changing the supply chain from traditional shipment service to a technology-driven process. 🚀



Yamrot Nigussie
RM (Cargo) Gulf Region
Ethiopian Airlines

“Growth of e-commerce is altering the global supply chain to a more connected and tech-driven process.”






Invest in sustainability, unravel **long-term benefits**

Sustainability in the Gulf region presents a compelling mix of pros and cons, with initial high costs being a notable challenge, balanced by long-term benefits in economic diversification, resource efficiency, and new industry creation. From regenerative destinations to usage of sustainable fuel, the role of sustainability is greater than ever before.



 Dr Shehara Rizly Fernando

CARGOTALK spoke with some experts about reducing carbon footprint and how to curb a cost increase. Easier said than done, cost is a roadblock in the cargo industry as everything comes with its own price tag. With more focus on sustainable practices and researching new ways to reduce carbon emissions and costs, day by day new avenues are being explored to take the industry forward. Global sustainability standards are on the increase in terms of using renewable energy, improving efficiency, and reducing costs.

In recent years, the investment strategies have been focused on sustainable

logistics systems. These systems have been tried and tested over the years to ensure a smooth operation. Middle East region has taken steps to ensure that they are in line with all the new regulations, lobbying for more sustainability options and reshaping the industry, which will reduce emissions and future-proof operations. The year 2050 has been earmarked for carbon reduction, with back-end work already underway in this region. Foundations for a carbon free atmosphere has been in the works for air cargo, logistics, and supply chain. Day in and day out, new areas are being developed to check probabilities of the future. At the end of the day, reducing costs, while preserving the environment is the way forward in the industry.

Putting money in energy-efficient infra vital

Cargo operators can reduce carbon footprint by optimising ground processes, electrifying material-handling fleets, and improving system efficiency. ESG regulations will push trade routes toward greener hubs and accelerate investments in energy-efficient infra. At DIMOS FZCO, our electric ULD movers and automated handling solutions lower energy consumption and reduce maintenance costs.”



Martin Bremen
Managing Director
DIMOS

“*ESG regulations will push trade routes toward greener hubs and accelerate investments in energy-efficient infra.*”

Sustainable ops are the way forward

With focus on reducing carbon footprint, I think cargo operators can apply sustainable practices by optimising flight routes, using fuel-efficient aircraft, and going paperless through digital systems. They can improve load efficiency and use



Razmal Assen
Executive Director
Scanwell Logistics

“*Countries that follow strict environmental rules may attract more trade, while others might fall behind.*”

renewable energy in ground ops without hiking costs. Nations that follow environmental rules may attract more trade, while others might fall behind.”

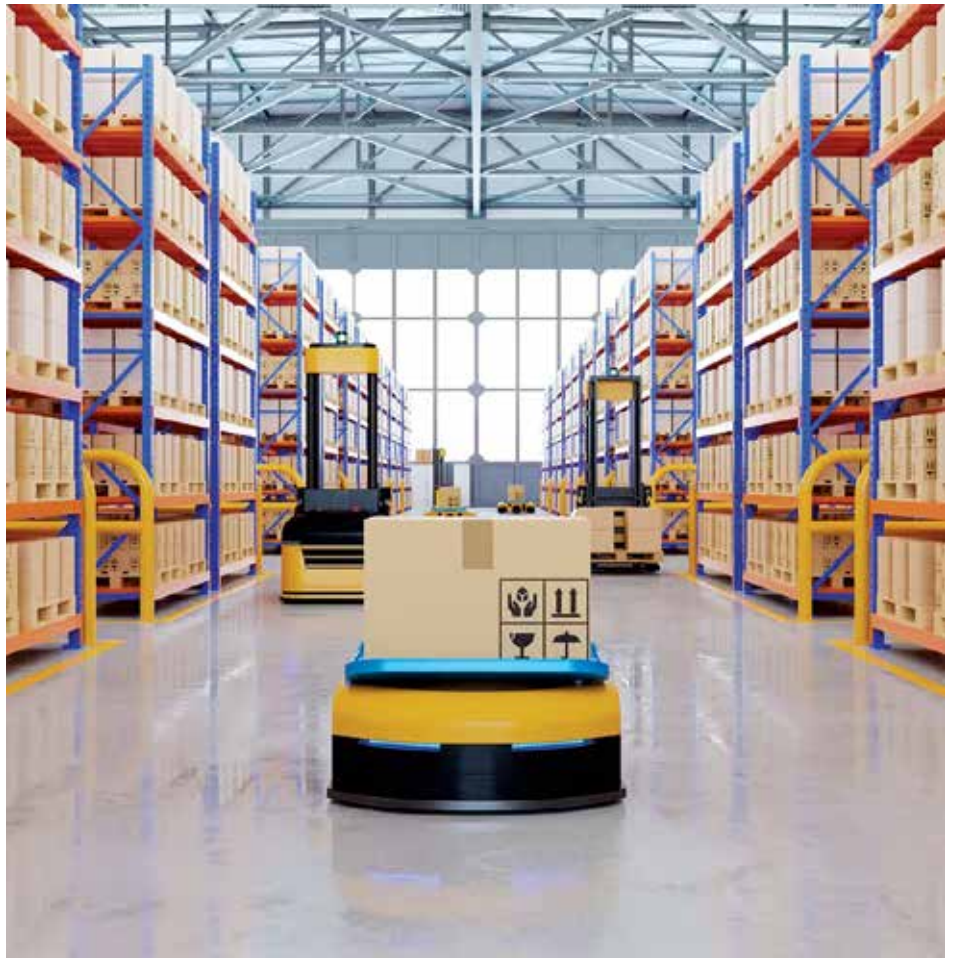
Sustainability is a collective effort

It is important to reiterate that the path of air cargo toward sustainability is a collaborative effort requiring alignment among airlines, forwarders, shippers, and fuel producers, moving from risk mitigation to value creation, such as green marketing, and meeting demand for low-carbon logistics. The cargo operators can reduce carbon footprint without heavy investments by focusing on operational efficiency and collaborative optimisation.”



Marc Prasad
Regional VP
ALSI Global

“ Air cargo operators can significantly reduce their carbon footprint without massive investments.”



Fuel-efficient fleet to reduce emissions

Cargo operators can reduce CO₂ footprint by improving load optimisation, adopting digital processes, and partnering with airlines on fuel-efficient fleet planning — all of which enhance efficiency without major cost increases. Global sustain-



Mazhar Marzook
GSA Cargo Manager
ATTA Shipping and Cargo

“ Sustainability will reshape trade by pushing operators toward greener hubs and optimised flight paths.”

ability standards will reshape trade by pushing operators toward greener hubs, optimised flight paths, and investments in modern, energy-efficient terminals.”

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.





TIACA charts global growth at Air Cargo Forum 2025

TIACA continues to fortify its role as a global leader in air cargo, championing innovation and sustainability. Its first-ever Air Cargo Forum in Abu Dhabi, held from 3–6 November, brought over 1,000 participants from 65 airlines, showcasing TIACA's commitment to linking stakeholders and shaping the future of logistics worldwide.



Glyn Hughes
Director-General
TIACA

panel stood out for its candid reflection on the region's rapid evolution and growing role in global trade. Complementing the panel discussions were OASIS side chats — fast-paced 20-minute conversations featuring leaders from Amazon, DSV, and Etihad Cargo — offering sharp, operational insights and strategic perspectives.

TIACA also revealed updates on the Air Cargo Forum 2026 in Miami. The event will be held at the Miami Beach Convention Centre

TIACA shared its plans for upcoming events, confirming the next Executive Summit will take place in Warsaw on 2–4 June 2026, marking its first event in Poland. Membership continues to increase, now surpassing over 500 globally with 60 per cent growth in the past six years.

TIACA also revealed updates on the Air Cargo Forum 2026 in Miami. The event will be held at the Miami Beach Convention Centre. The association is expecting to welcome 4,000 attendees, which has risen from 3,500 last year.

The addition of members from the Middle East, including Dubai South and SolitAir, along with the return of Emirates, highlights the region's

CT Bureau

Abu Dhabi hosted its first-ever TIACA Air Cargo Forum 2025, marking a defining moment for the city and the global air cargo community. Transforming the Etihad Arena was a first for the association and set the tone for a future-focused gathering. Over 1,000 participants attended, including representatives from 65 airlines, with 70

per cent holding director-level or senior leadership roles. For a debut event in a new location, these numbers underscored industry confidence and interest.

“TIACA continues to innovate and not just follow the traditional way things are done. We focus on key topics such as digitalisation, sustainability, innovation, e-commerce, and leadership. Our

aim is to provide a platform where industry leaders can share insights, collaborate, and help shape the air cargo future,” said Glyn Hughes, Director-General, TIACA.

Over three days, sessions at the forum explored digitalisation, sustainability, leadership, innovation, and e-commerce, highlighting major shifts across the cargo ecosystem. The Middle East

expanding engagement with TIACA's initiatives.

TRADE POLICY

TIACA also discussed its broader advocacy work, reaffirming its core policy position on global trade. The association supports free, open, and fair trade, stressing that open economies strengthen global safety, cooperation, and prosperity. TIACA cautioned protectionist measures, such as tariffs, barriers, and restrictive policies, risk reversing progress and fragmenting global supply chains. The association continues to use its voice at ICAO and in discussions with governments, including the US, to emphasise the importance of liberalisation.

Recent debates around de minimis thresholds and tariff collection highlighted the consequences that policy shifts can have on postal flows, carriers, and genuine trade. TIACA

rejects the concept of so-called 'reciprocal tariffs,' noting that they function as penalty mechanisms rather than balanced trade tools.

The association continues to advocate efficient multimodal cooperation, stressing air cargo, maritime, and other transport modes must work as an integrated ecosystem. "TIACA is committed to supporting talent globally. From

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Latin America, Africa, China, and India, we aim to provide best-practice examples and guidance to help regions grow their logistics and supply chain capabilities," added Glyn Hughes.

KSA is emerging as a growth market, with Vision 2030 driving major investment in sectors such as pharmaceutical, aerospace, and advanced

Quick stats

- Senior leaders: 70% director-level or higher
- TIACA members globally: Over 500
- Membership growth: 60% in six years
- Next forum: Miami, 2026 (4,000 expected)

TIACA advocacy

- Supports free, open, and fair trade
- Warns against protectionist tariffs and barriers
- Advocates for efficient multimodal supply chains
- Engages globally with ICAO, governments, and industry stakeholders





manufacturing. TIACA has a presence in KSA through its members and partnerships with Saudi Cargo and King Salman International Airport and has supported the market by engaging with budding experts in national management trainee programmes to strengthen future industry talent.

International outreach has strengthened with regional representatives now active across Latin America, India, China, and the Middle East, supporting varsity partnerships and regional forums. Initiatives, such as Global Aviation and Aerospace Skills Taskforce and Generation Logistics are driving talent development and awareness, promoting long-term industry growth. TIACA plans to expand programme offerings, introduce new thematic pavilions, including the Startup Pavilion, and grow sector-specific zones. 🇸🇦

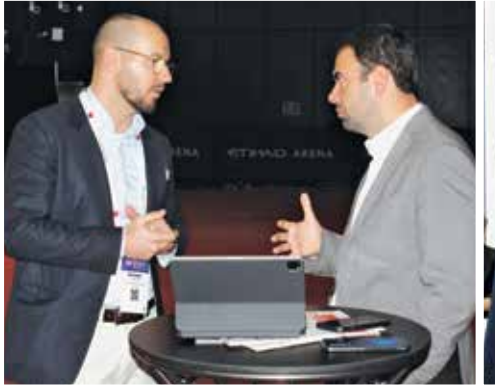


Air cargo industry under one roof @TIACA ACF

The TIACA Air Cargo Forum 2025 took place from 3–6 November in Abu Dhabi. The edition marked the first-ever ACF hosted in Abu Dhabi. Organised in partnership with Etihad Cargo, the event brought together cargo professionals, logistics experts, policymakers, and tech innovators from across the world on one platform.







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FedEx drives trade, growth across MEISA region



In a region where trade is growing faster than ever, FedEx is doing more than moving packages. From Dubai to RAK, the firm is linking markets, backing businesses, and helping communities thrive. With digital tools, FedEx is shaping ideas and opportunities across the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, and Africa.

CT Bureau

In today's fast-moving world, trade does not just happen but relies on networks and speed. For over 50 years, FedEx has been at the heart of this system, helping businesses, communities, and economies stay connected. This year, the company's ops reached US\$ 1.6 billion in economic impact across the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, and Africa (MEISA), showing the world how logistics can drive growth in the region.

Dubai plays a central role in this success story. The emirate has used its position as a key hub of trade and logistics. FedEx's regional hub at Dubai World Central – Al Maktoum International Airport acts as a bridge. A new five-times-a-week flight linking Guangzhou, Bengaluru, Dubai, and Paris allows businesses to move goods faster and more efficiently, opening new opportunities for trade. "The Middle East is cementing its role as a vital hub for global trade, linking fast growing markets across Asia, Europe, and Africa," said Kami Viswanathan, President,



Kami Viswanathan
President
FedEx MEISA

Middle East, Indian Subcontinent, and Africa, FedEx. "By strengthening our network, expanding digital capabilities, and empowering small businesses, we are enabling smarter supply chains that fuel economic growth, diversification, and long-term value across the region."

LOCAL BUSINESSES

SMBs are at the heart of FedEx's network in the region. This year, the firm fortified its presence in the UAE by partnering with Emirates Post and created 68 authorised centres across the nation. These centres provide businesses with access to shipping services, helping them reach custom-

ers locally as well as globally. FedEx also opened a customs clearance facility at Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone, supporting 30,000 local businesses in moving goods efficiently and reducing delays at the border.

To make trade simpler, FedEx rolled out digital tools designed to streamline processes. The FedEx Import Tool centralises document management and speeds up customs clearance, while FedEx Surround allows businesses to monitor shipments, track potential delays, and gain real-time visibility into their supply chains. These services empower local firms to manage imports with confidence, reduce operational hurdles, and focus on growing their businesses. By combining physical infra with digital solutions, FedEx is helping SMBs compete globally and take advantage of cross-border trade opportunities.

EXPANDING TRADE

At a time when cross-border e-commerce is growing, FedEx is helping businesses meet that demand. Its International Connect Plus service in the UAE and the KSA offers fast,

reliable delivery for packages up to 20 kg, with online tracking and flexible delivery options. These solutions make it easier for local businesses to reach customers abroad.

SUSTAINABILITY

FedEx is working toward carbon-neutral ops by 2040, investing in renewable energy, EVs, and SAF. These efforts aim to reduce environmental impact, while keeping trade moving. FedEx's story in MEISA region is about more than just shipping packages.

**FEDEX IN MEISA
FY25**

- ❖ Created US\$ 1.6 billion in economic impact
- ❖ Opened 68 authorised ship centres in UAE
- ❖ Over 30,000 businesses supported at Ras Al Khaimah
- ❖ Launched 34 business clusters for SMBs

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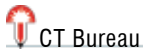


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SolitAir solidifies growth, expands reach to Global South

Air cargo carriers are preparing for a promising 2026. Emerging as the UAE’s only dedicated express cargo airline, SolitAir focuses on air freight solutions across the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, and offers tailored cargo handling, charter services, and e-commerce logistics support, says **Hamdi Osman, Founder and CEO, SolitAir.**



How does SolitAir differentiate itself in the air cargo sector?

Unlike the larger players operating wide-body aircraft, we focus on narrow-body aircraft, specifically the 737-800, and operate within a six-hour radius. Our target market is the Global South, including Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and China. This allows us to focus on those regions that are often underserved, while maintaining an efficient and specialised service.

What major milestones has SolitAir achieved so far?

In just one year, we have reached as many as 34 cities, a significant achievement considering our initial goal was 50 cities over three years. Moving forward, we aim to cover the remaining 16 cities by 2026. This progress reflects the dedication and hard work of our team.

How do you see the air cargo industry evolving in the coming years?

I see three major trends shaping the air cargo industry over the next couple of years. First, the current political and economic uncertainties are likely to soften, restoring confidence in the trade. Second, the Global South will emerge as a real power in goods movement. And third, digital technologies, especially Artificial Intelligence, will accelerate cargo operations, making the air cargo industry faster and more efficient.



Hamdi Osman
Founder & CEO
SolitAir

Are there specific sectors that will drive growth?

Pharma will remain a key focus, supported by advanced technology and equipment. Agriculture and production-oriented goods, among others will continue to depend on air and sea transport. E-commerce is rebounding strongly and we expect significant growth next year and the year after that.

How does TIACA benefit SolitAir, and what are your goals here?

TIACA is one of the best platforms to meet colleagues from across the industry. It is an opportunity to connect with both long-time professionals and the new generation of cargo leaders from around the world. For SolitAir, being relatively new and niche in this industry, it is also important to communicate our message and showcase what we do differently.

Any final thoughts for the air cargo community?

Collaboration is critical. If everyone — from air operators and cargo freight companies to industry stakeholders — work together, rather than compete against one another, we can move the industry forward and create a thriving, more resilient and innovative air cargo ecosystem.

Key milestones

- Reached 34 cities in just one year
- Initial goal: 50 cities in three years; on track to complete by 2026
- Focuses on Global South: Latin America, Africa, Middle East, Indian subcontinent, China

Fleet & operations

- Operates narrow-body 737-800 aircraft
- Flights within a six-hour radius, enhancing efficiency
- Offers tailored cargo handling, charter services, e-commerce logistics support



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His Excellency Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori, Director-General, Abu Dhabi Customs, and His Excellency Dr Rashed Rashed Al Mehrezi, Director-General, Ras Al Khaimah Customs, during the signing of the cooperation agreement between Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Khaimah Customs

AI, collaboration improving trade processes

At the 45th edition of the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX) 2025, Abu Dhabi Customs showcased its latest AI solutions and digital platforms to streamline customs operations and improve business experience. Abu Dhabi Customs is focusing on using AI to make global trade processes faster and more user-friendly.

 CT Bureau

Digitalisation is unavoidable in today's world. While many sectors have adapted, airports, customs authorities, and freight forwarders still need to catch up with the trend. Abu Dhabi Customs is deepening its digital transformation with a focus on using AI to make trade processes faster and more user-friendly.

Among its standout tools, the Smart Customs Interpreter, was developed by Emirati professionals to support communication between Customs



His Excellency Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori
Director-General
Abu Dhabi Customs

officers and clients in over 90 languages through voice, text, and sign language. The

interactive system aims to remove language barriers, reduce errors, and improve accuracy during customs checks.

These updates are part of efforts to simplify clearance procedures and strengthen efficiency at border points. The initiative reflects Abu Dhabi Customs' goal of adopting smart tech that makes trade smoother and improves overall customer experience.

"The showcased solutions align with government priorities to deliver smart services that drive excellence and global competitiveness in

Smart Customs Interpreter was developed to support communication between Customs officers and clients in over 90 languages

customs operations," said Mohammed Hussein Al Blooshi, Head, Corporate Communication and Marketing, Abu Dhabi Customs.

Besides optimising customs workflows and enhancing data quality, Abu Dhabi Customs also launched Clearance.AI, a generative AI suite. The platform automates key processes, including self-clearance for non-restricted goods, smart valuation of shipments, verification of customs registration numbers, and post-clearance audits. AI strengthens compliance, reduces human error, and ensures precision, allowing a smoother trade flow, thereby reinforcing Abu Dhabi's status as a global trade hub.

Alongside tech innovation, Abu Dhabi Customs has forged partnerships to enhance integration and collaboration across the UAE. A pact with Ras Al Khaimah Customs ratifies the exchange of best practices, coordination of operations, and adoption of AI-driven systems such as RIMAH and DHAFA, which help identify the nature of shipments prior to their arrival at customs ports.

These partnerships support the development of an integrated customs ecosystem, promote operational excellence, and strengthen the UAE's competitiveness regionally and globally. This partnership is part of ongoing

AI strengthens compliance, reduces errors, and ensures precision, allowing a smoother trade flow, reinforcing Abu Dhabi's status as a global trade hub

efforts to strengthen effective coordination among Customs authorities across the UAE, in line with the leadership's vision to build an integrated and advanced customs ecosystem, His Excellency Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori, Director-General, Abu Dhabi Customs, said.

AI Innovations

- Smart Customs Interpreter supports 90 languages, including voice, text, and sign
- Clearance.AI automates workflows, shipment valuation, registration checks, and audits
- Reduce errors and speed up customs procedures

DIGITAL OPERATIONS

To help commercial operations through electronic linking channels, Abu Dhabi Customs has also enhanced its collaborations with the Federal Tax Authority (FTA). This partnership streamlines tax and customs procedures, ensures compliance with UAE legislation, and enhances business experience. It includes efforts to develop proactive services, exchange critical information, and conduct awareness campaigns for investors. These initiatives align with the 'Zero Government Bureaucracy' strategy, reflecting Abu Dhabi's commitment to a dynamic, efficient, and transparent business environment.

The integration of AI systems, advanced data man-

Digital Operations

- Partnership with Federal Tax Authority to simplify tax, customs processes
- Supports Zero Govt Bureaucracy and boosts investor experience
- Streamlines tax and customs procedures, ensures compliance with UAE legislation

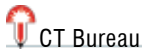
agement, and strategic partnerships demonstrates Abu Dhabi's holistic approach to trade and logistics. His Excellency Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori, Director-General, Abu Dhabi Customs, said that these efforts are part of a broader strategy to create a digitally enabled, and innovative customs ecosystem. By leveraging advanced technologies, integrating operations across the UAE, and fostering strategic collaboration, Abu Dhabi Customs is improving the efficiency, transparency, and resilience of customs operations, while contributing significantly to sustainable economic growth.

Through these initiatives, Abu Dhabi showcases how strategic investment in technology, human capital, and partnerships can transform the logistics landscape. AI-driven solutions, streamlined procedures, and collaborative frameworks ensure that trade flows more efficiently and securely, making Abu Dhabi a central hub for regional and global commerce. The emirate's focus on innovation and integration not only strengthens its economic position but also advances the UAE's vision of a knowledge-based and digitally advanced economy. 🚀



Middle East becomes new gateway for African trade boom

With trade flows diversifying, and regions such as China and Africa exploring new trends, opportunities are being created for cargo routes, including increased flows to the Middle East. In an interview, **Aaron Smith, Director, Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, ACI Logistics**, spoke about changing trade routes and the role of tech in ops.



How did this year shape the ACI Logistics' operations?

Globally, this year has been an interesting year for freight. Trade dynamics shifted due to various factors such as US tariffs and global disruptions. Some traditional trade routes closed, while new ones opened, creating non-traditional patterns. Despite this, we have seen growth in some verticals, particularly pharma, and in trade lanes such as Africa, which is still a core focus for our business.

What makes Africa a strategic market for the company?

Africa is largely unexplored. Markets, such as Rwanda, Brazzaville, and Kinshasa have a demand for reliable cargo services. Our presence allows us to provide niche solutions in underserved areas, leveraging the ability and operational standards. The UAE's investments in free zones and port infra across Angola and Tan-



Aaron Smith
Director, Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, ACI Logistics

zania, led by players such as DP World, have strengthened trade linkage and logistics capacity. These developments give us a competitive edge and allow us to extend high-quality practices into the emerging African markets.

How are trade patterns evolving globally?

There is a noticeable change in how global trade is approached. Many have long focused on Western markets such as Europe and the US, but trade flows are now diversifying rapidly. The once-dominant China-US corridor no

longer accounts for the same share of global trade, as China and other Far East economies, such as Vietnam and Thailand, are exploring new markets.

Within Africa, export-driven economies are shifting toward manufacturing, creating new opportunities and trade routes. For instance, Kenya has traditionally focused on horticulture exports such as fruits, vegetables, and flowers, but we are now seeing increasing cargo flows toward the Middle East and CIS regions. The growth of new players, such as TAG Angola, EgyptAir, and Kenya Airways prove how African carriers are expanding their footprint and building niche trade lanes to fortify connectivity across emerging markets.

What role does technology play in your operations?

Technology is increasingly becoming central. AI, automation, and electronic aircraft systems can reduce errors, enhance speed, and improve overall efficiency. Drones can service remote areas that conventional aircraft cannot reach, while SAF and automation support safer and more ethical practices. Evolving customs processing further streamlines trade.

How do you see the air cargo market developing next year?

We expect significant growth driven by e-commerce and improved infra in emerging markets. Consumers in Africa, Asia, and other regions will gain faster access to goods, narrowing the gap with traditional economies. Next

Africa remains largely unexplored. Markets, such as Rwanda, Brazzaville, and Kinshasa have a demand for reliable cargo services

year is set to be pivotal — with the benefits of technology, infrastructure investment, and sustainability coming into play.

How do you see the future of freight and logistics panning out?

The future is moving toward efficiency, automation, and sustainability. By combining technological innovation with investments, the industry can achieve faster, safer, and more accessible global trade, while aligning with environmental and ethical goals.



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Cargo growth eases as markets show mixed regional performance

The Gulf region continues to leverage its position as an important air cargo hub. Carriers in the region saw demand grow slightly, supported by flows on the Middle East–Asia corridor. Despite challenges, the Middle East’s resilient trade links underscore its ongoing importance in international freight movement, according to IATA.

CT Bureau

Overall air cargo demand grew 2.9 per cent year-on-year, marking the seventh consecutive month of expansion, though the September pace was softer than August, according to an IATA report. The Middle East, the global hub for air freight, continued to grow, but at a slower rate, thus reflecting the impact of regional tensions and shifting trade dynamics. The global air cargo industry showed signs of resilience in September, though momentum slowed down across major markets.

decline in total cargo-tonne kilometres (CTKs), underlining the strain the sector faced even though it is a pivotal link between Asia, Africa, and Europe.

The region continues to play a crucial role in global freight distribution. The Middle East–Asia corridor, responsible for a significant share of global traffic, grew by 4.6 per cent year-on-year in September, aided by resilient trade activity between Gulf and East Asian hubs. However, this growth was offset by falling capacity utilisation. The region’s Cargo Load

The Middle East–Asia air corridor, which is responsible for a significant share of global traffic, grew by 4.6% year-on-year in September

global landscape. The continent’s carriers recorded 14.7 per cent YoY surge in cargo demand, the highest among all regions. Trade links with Asia drove the growth, particularly on the Africa–Asia lane, which grew 9.6 per cent YoY. Africa’s CLF improved by 2.8 percentage points to 44.4 per cent, signalling improved efficiency and utilisation.

In contrast, Asia-Pacific carriers, who collectively manage one-third of global air freight, posted a moderate 6.8 per cent YoY growth. Year-to-date, the region is still the top growth contributor with an 8.8

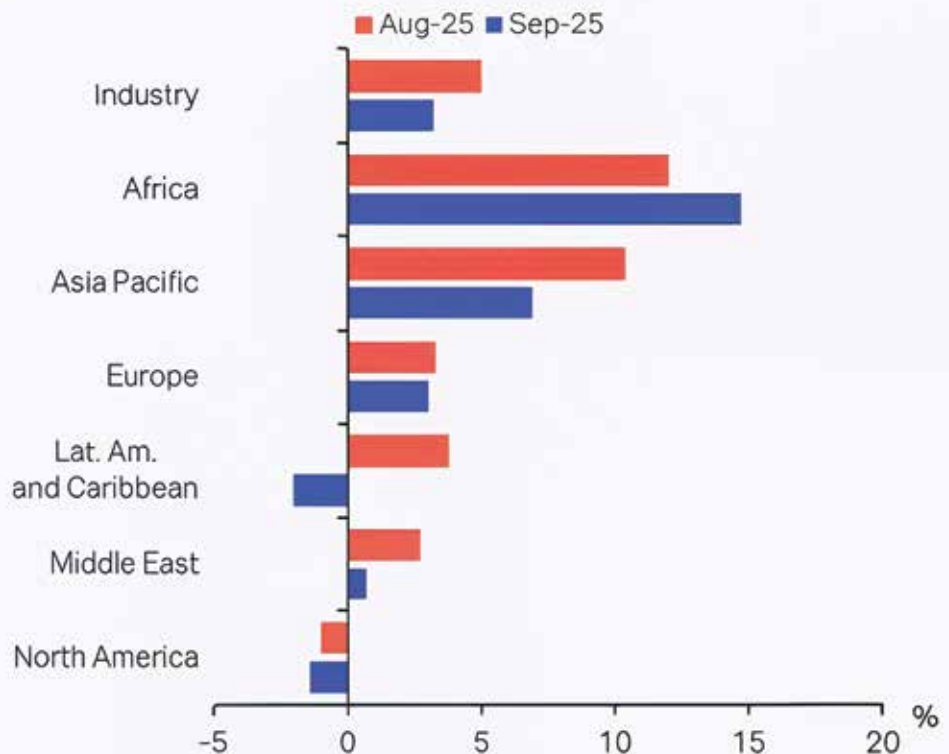
Factor (CLF) contracted by 2.2 percentage points to 45.4 per cent, the steepest regional drop worldwide. Africa performed well across the broader

SLOW AND STEADY

While the overall picture remained positive, regional dynamics revealed contrasting performances. The Middle East, a key global hub for trade and logistics, recorded a sharp slowdown. Air cargo demand for the region’s carriers increased by 0.6 per cent YoY — down from 2.6 per cent in August. On global routes, the figure was marginally higher at 0.7 per cent. The slowdown was attributed to geopolitical tensions and airspace restrictions, as active EASE warnings disrupted cargo operations across key trade corridors.

The Europe–Middle East route suffered a 4.6 per cent YoY setback in September, worsening from a 0.8 per cent drop the previous month. Regional conflicts and limited flight paths constrained capacity and affected freight movement, despite the region’s performance. Year-to-date (YTD), Middle Eastern carriers reported a 1.7 per cent

Chart 2: International CTK by airline region of registration, YoY, %



AIR CARGO MARKET IN DETAIL - SEPTEMBER 2025

	World	September 2025 (year-on-year, %)				September 2025 (year-to-date, %)			
	Share1, %	CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-pt)	CLF (level)	CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-pt)	CLF (level)
TOTAL MARKET	100.0	2.9	3.0	0.0	45.7	3.2	3.4	-0.1	45.1
Africa	2.0	14.7	7.4	2.8	44.4	3.0	5.0	-0.8	42.6
Asia-Pacific	34.3	6.8	4.8	0.9	49.3	8.8	7.3	0.6	47.0
Europe	21.5	2.5	4.4	-0.9	51.3	2.2	3	-0.4	52.4
Latin America and Caribbean	2.9	-2.2	3.1	-1.9	35.2	45	4.5	5.0 -0.2	36.1
Middle East	13.6	0.6	5.5	-2.2	45.4	-1.7	2.4	-1.9	44.6
North America	25.7	-1.2	-1.5	0.1	39.4	-0.9	-0.7	-0.1	39.5
International	87.3	3.2	4.4	-0.6	50.4	3.9	4.8	-0.4	50.2
Africa	2.0	14.7	6.8	3.2	45.8	3.0	4.4	-0.6	43.9
Asia-Pacific	30.6	6.9	7.0	-0.1	55	8.8	9.9	-0.5	53.5
Europe	21	3.0	4.0	-0.5	53.6	2.4	2.6	-0.1	54.7
Latin America and Caribbean	2.5	-2.0	1.8	-1.5	39.4	4.9	4.6	0.1	40.2
Middle East	13.6	0.7	5.5	-2.2	45.7	-1.6	2.3	-1.8	45.0
North America	17.5	-1.4	0.1	-0.7	45.8	1.4	1.3	0.1	46.7

Note 1: % of industry CTK in 2024

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

per cent rise in cargo demand. Within Asia, freight volumes expanded by 10 per cent YoY, keeping the region's leadership in global cargo connectivity.

Europe's air cargo sector continued its recovery trajectory, achieving a 2.5 per cent YoY increase. This reflected

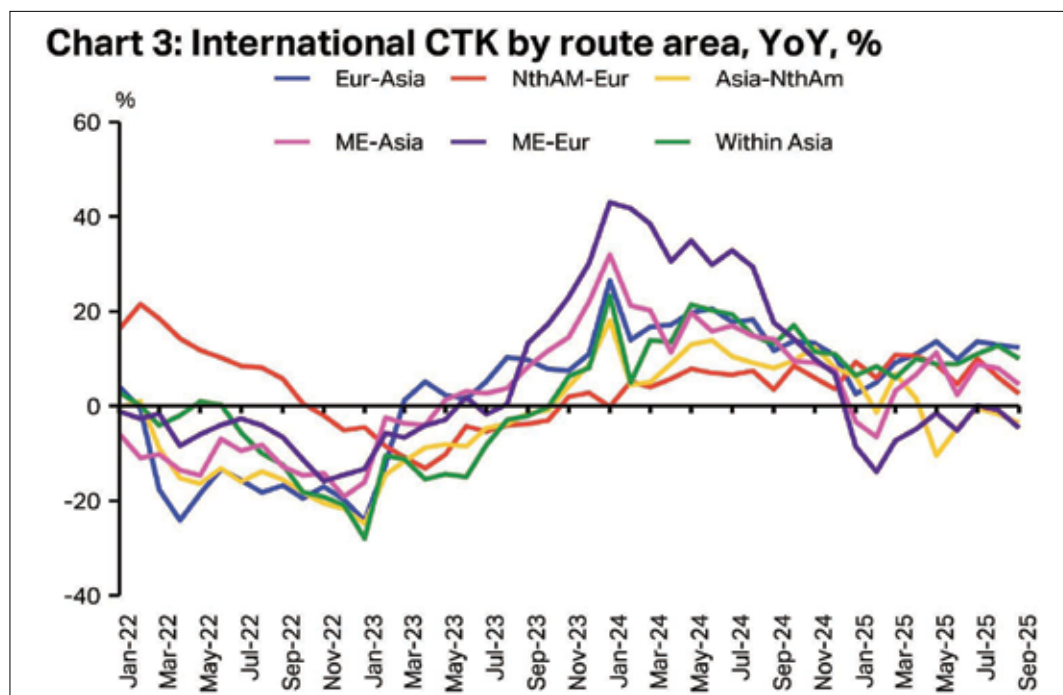
steady intra-regional demand and improvements in the Europe-Asia routes, which saw a 12.4 per cent YoY gain, extending a two-year streak of double-digit growth. The Europe-North America corridor also recorded a modest 2.6 per cent rise. However, the Europe-Middle East opera-

tions slipped down owing to conflict-related constraints.

TRADE SHIFTS, FUEL COSTS

Available cargo capacity increased by 3.0 per cent YoY, keeping the average CLF stable at 45.7 per cent, globally. Jet fuel prices rose 5.4 per cent

Europe's air cargo sector continued its recovery trajectory, achieving a 2.5% YoY increase. This reflected on intra-regional demand and improvements



YoY, reversing a 14-month decline, while cargo rates continued to soften down 5.5 per cent YoY, though they edged up 1.3 per cent month-on-month, marking the fifth consecutive increase.

As Q4 unfolds, the Middle East's recovery will hinge on regional stability and continued integration with Asian trade flows. While global growth has lost steam, IATA's data underscores the industry's resilience in navigating disruptions, supported by intra-Asian trade, Africa's emerging role, and the Middle East's strategic position as a global logistics bridge.

LODD Autonomous redefines logistics with new **Hili** aircraft



As the sector faces pressure to deliver faster, more efficient solutions, LODD Autonomous leverages AI to redefine cargo operations and address gaps in logistics. By creating air corridors between logistics hubs and warehouses, the company enables seamless transfers, says **Rashid Al Manai, CEO, LODD Autonomous**.

CT Bureau

LODD recently signed a pact with Etihad Cargo. Can you elaborate?

We are thrilled to announce this partnership. It brings together a UAE-designed aircraft and the UAE national carrier to redefine the future of logistics from Abu Dhabi to the world. This collaboration underscores our commitment to delivering homegrown solutions for global logistics.

Can you tell us about Hili and how it stands out from other aircraft?

Our flagship product, Hili, is a logistics aircraft, designed specifically for middle-mile operations. Hili has been designed with a user-centric approach to address key bottlenecks in the sector. Its vertical take-off and landing capability eliminates the need for complex airport infrastructure, allowing it to connect to warehouses directly. It features a

hybrid propulsion system — electric for vertical lift and internal combustion for cruising — that overcomes limitations of fully electric aircraft. The cargo bay is designed for operational flexibility, with side-access doors on both sides, a flatbed layout, and non-sensitivity to centre of gravity, enabling high turnaround times and easy integration into existing warehouse operations.

There is demand worldwide for scalable, efficient solutions and we aim to expand within the GCC and globally

How does Hili meet today's logistics demands?

E-commerce growth and demand for fast deliveries, par-

ticularly for time-sensitive items such as pharma, have created challenges for the logistics sector. Hili addresses these challenges by enabling high-frequency and same-day deliveries without requiring specialised infra or teams. Our approach ensures that innovation adapts to people, not the other way around.

Are there plans to expand beyond the UAE?

Absolutely. While we are starting in the UAE, we have signed Letters of Intent in East Asia and the UK. There is demand worldwide for a scalable, efficient solutions and we aim to expand within the GCC and globally.

How does Hili compare to drone-based logistics solutions?

Hili differs in its design and operational capabilities. While many current efforts focus on fully electric drones, we have taken a hybrid approach that

balances vertical take-off capability with extended cruising range. This ensures commercial viability today, not just in the future, and allows us to deliver on a scale across existing logistics networks.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Hili, the flagship aircraft, connects warehouses directly, skipping airports
- ❖ Hili enables fast, same-day deliveries for time-sensitive goods
- ❖ Major partnership signed with Etihad Cargo
- ❖ Company focuses on AI-driven, autonomous logistics solutions
- ❖ LODD Autonomous founded in 2023 in UAE

KSA–China join forces to bridge connectivity gap

As trade and e-commerce continue to expand across borders, logistics firms are seeking new ways to link markets. SAL Logistics Services has picked up the gauntlet by partnering with TAM Group, focusing on developing cargo ops, improving supply chain efficiency, and opening new opportunities for businesses in KSA and China.

CT Bureau

Saudi Arabia's leading logistics provider, SAL Logistics Services, is now taking its first international plunge by collaborating with China's TAM Group, aiming to enhance trade movements and air cargo connectivity between the two nations. The agreement with TAM Group, signed at Transport Logistic Southeast Asia Exhibition in Singapore, marks a significant step in expanding SAL's presence into one of the world's largest and fastest-growing logistics markets.

China has long been a key trade hub and a vital link in the global supply chain, connecting markets across continents. Its strategic location and growing influence in trade and logistics have prompted firms worldwide to strengthen partnerships with the nation.

The collaboration aims to strengthen cargo operations between China and KSA, providing innovative solutions to meet growing trade demands. Both companies will leverage their abilities to improve operational efficiency, enhance e-commerce supply chain, and open new opportunities for global trade. This partnership positions the Kingdom as a more integrated player in global logistics, supporting the goals of the National Transport and Logistics Strategy and Saudi Vision 2030.

By establishing a presence in China, SAL Logistics can ease import-export operations and help Chinese companies access the Saudi market, using



SAL announces first international expansion by collaborating with China-based TAM Group

The collaboration aims to fortify cargo ops between China and KSA, providing innovative solutions to meet growing trade demands

the Kingdom's strategic geographic location as a distribution hub.

"As part of the SAL's expansion strategy, we are proud to announce the company's first global presence in China through our partnership with TAM Group. This collaboration will enable Chinese companies to expand into KSA and

leverage the Kingdom's strategic location as a global distribution hub powered by SAL's integrated logistics solutions," said Omar Hariri, CEO, SAL Logistics Services.

The partnership will focus on e-commerce growth, with air cargo networks being developed to ensure faster, more reliable delivery solutions. For TAM Group, the alliance strengthens its global footprint, while combining expertise with SAL's operational capabilities to support trade flows between the two nations.

By stepping into the Chinese market, SAL Logistics is not only expanding its global presence but also reinforcing KSA's ambition to become a key global logistics hub. The collaboration sets the


stage for innovative air cargo solutions that can support trade growth, increase connectivity, and strengthen the Kingdom's role in international supply chains. 🚚





Steering air cargo through 2025 headwinds

In an interview, **Rohit Thakwani, CEO, Airglow Aviation**, says the company has seen exports rise from several stations, with Africa rising as a strong and stable market. Despite tariff pressures affecting certain routes, the company has adapted quickly, ensuring continued service for its partners.

 CT Bureau

This year has been challenging for the air cargo sector, with shifting trends, uneven demand, and tariff-driven disruptions. Even so, for Airglow Aviation, the year has played out stronger than last year, marked by growth in exports across several stations and steady demand from Africa, one of the more resilient markets.

Due to tariff pressures, routes to Europe and North America were disrupted, which has seen a decline in volumes. The US saw the sharpest decline, driven largely by tariff-related issues affecting e-commerce shipments out of China. In contrast, China–Africa traffic increased, helping balance some of the losses, said Rohit Thakwani, CEO, Airglow Aviation.

“The situation required constant adjustment. We are literally on our toes. We are doing what we can, adapting



Rohit Thakwani
CEO
Airglow Aviation

to the situation like we always have,” he said, noting that despite the volatility, the year has fared better than 2024.

Perishables from Africa are stable, and e-commerce continues to drive volumes across the company’s main stations. E-commerce volumes are growing, supported by platforms such as Temu and Shein, with customers expecting their orders to reach them within three to five days. Thakwani said, “E-commerce

The US saw the sharpest decline, driven by tariff-related issues affecting e-commerce shipments out of China

volumes by air will keep growing. I think we have just started. We will see many more partners enter the industry and push more volumes out. So, yes, we have seen a bit of a dip.” Electronics and online retail rarely slow down, Thakwani added, with the consumers continually seeking the latest devices. While tariffs have influenced short-term performance, Thakwani expects the conditions to stabilise. “I think next year will be a far better year,” he said, emphasising that reduced regional tensions will be critical.

Looking ahead, sustainability and digitisation remain key priorities for Airglow Aviation. The company is introducing AI-powered systems to improve efficiency and enhance service for partners. Next year, the focus will be on expanding reach, integrating more AI systems into operations, and providing stronger solutions across its network, said Thakwani, signing off. 



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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, there are several buildings with traditional thatched roofs, partially obscured by more trees and a fence.

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KSA's new warehouse ups the ante for pharma logistics

Globally, pharma logistics is raising its standards to ensure safe, transparent movement of medical goods. KSA is emerging as a viable contender in this space. The launch of AJEX's GMP-GxP compliant facility in Riyadh, the first in the Kingdom, shows how it is moving closer to becoming a regional hub for healthcare supply chains.

CT Bureau

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's (KSA) ambition to become a major hub for pharma trade is taking shape with the launch of AJEX's new GMP-GxP warehouse in Riyadh, the first of its kind in the Kingdom. At a time when KSA is investing heavily in pharmaceutical manufacturing, clinical trials, and life sciences innovation, this initiative helps not only localise



Justyna Lehmann
Senior Director, Cold Chain & Healthcare, AJEX

critical infrastructure and attract greater pharmaceutical activity but also aligns with the broader goals of Vision 2030. The 3,000 sqm facility is built to handle temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical products, setting a new standard for life sciences logistics in KSA.

With a GMP-GxP certified warehouse ensuring the safety, traceability, and quality of regulated goods, the Kingdom is positioning itself to play a

The firm will expand similar facilities in Jeddah and Dammam, fortifying KSA's life-science logistics ecosystem and supporting Vision 2030 for localisation



larger role in the regional supply chain for medicine and healthcare products.

“The only facility of its kind currently operational in the Kingdom, this investment positions AJEX as a unique partner for pharma companies seeking to enter or expand within the Kingdom and the Gulf region’s rapidly evolving market,” said Justyna Lehmann, Senior Director, Cold Chain & Healthcare, AJEX. “With global clinical trials expanding and demand for regulated cold chain storage rising, our GMP-GxP certified depot in Riyadh gives local and global manufacturers a new level of confidence and capability in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf markets.”

The Riyadh site includes advanced temperature-controlled storage areas: One is maintained at 2°C to 8°C for biologics, vaccines, and other temperature-sensitive drugs,



The 3,000 sqm facility is built to handle temperature-sensitive pharma products, setting a new standard for life-science logistics in KSA

and another at -20°C for frozen products. Each chamber is monitored in real-time, with alert systems and backup power to prevent temperature fluctuations, a requirement for pharma logistics. Beyond storage, the facility offers labelling and documentation rooms that allow for late-stage packaging in line with Saudi regulations, reducing delays for importers and exporters. This feature supports firms looking to manage their regional distribution from within the Kingdom rather than relying on re-export from hubs such as Dubai or Frankfurt.

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY

AJEX is committed to achieving Carbon Neutral Global Operations by 2050, integrat-

ing a comprehensive sustainability framework across its pharma logistics network — from cold chain transport to last-mile delivery. The company follows two core pillars: Burn Less — focusing on reducing energy consumption through advanced technologies, optimised route planning, efficient load management, and eco-driving practices; and Burn Clean — which centres on transitioning its entire pickup and delivery fleet to zero-emission electric vehicles. The Riyadh facility is equipped with robust contingency plans, redundant power systems, and rapid-response protocols that activate instantly in case of a power outage or equipment issue, ensuring uninterrupted compliance and product integrity.

Designed for the most sensitive and high-value pharma, the facility supports biologics, vaccines, clinical-trial materials, specialty medicines, and advanced cell and gene therapies, all managed in line with global standards. For Saudi Arabia, investments like this are about more than storage; they are about building credibility in regulated global trade. A compliant depot ena-

bles smoother customs processes, attracts MNC pharma firms, and supports the growth of clinical trials and local manufacturing. As trade in healthcare expands, the facility represents a shift toward sophisticated, locally managed supply chains, aligning KSA’s logistics network with the standards of a growing life sciences economy. The company plans to expand similar facilities in Jeddah and Dammam, fortifying KSA’s life-science logistics ecosystem and supporting Vision 2030 for localisation, advanced healthcare, and resilient supply chains. 🇸🇦



After 10-year hiatus, Aramex resumes services to Syria

Aramex’s resumption of services to Syria promises to restore reliable trade routes in the region. The move will also strengthen the Middle East’s cross-border logistics network. Aramex’s renewed operations aim to provide businesses and individuals with consistent and efficient logistics services, despite the complexities of cross-border transport.

CT Bureau

Aramex has resumed its delivery services to the Syrian Arab Republic, reconnecting the country with regional and international logistics networks after more than a decade-long pause. The first shipment after this long break was successfully delivered to Damascus, marking an important step in restoring trade and communication links in the Levant region.



Hussam Al-Baraquoni
VP – MENAT region
Aramex

The move comes after months of planning, coordination with local authorities, and preparing infrastructure to meet regulatory requirements. By resuming operations, Aramex is enabling both businesses and individual customers to send and receive shipments reliably, filling a gap that has persisted in cross-border logistics for years.

“We are proud to resume our services to Syria after

The move comes after months of planning, coordination with local authorities, and preparing infrastructure to meet regulatory requirements





more than a decade. This decision gives our customers in the region the opportunity to leverage Aramex's trusted, seamless logistics network. It also aligns with our commitment to providing resilient logistics solutions, especially in logistically challenging regions," said Hussam Al-Baraquoni, Vice President, MENAT, Aramex.

SMOOTHER TRADE

The resumption of services is likely to have wider economic and social benefits. Reliable delivery channels can help support local businesses, reconnect diaspora communities, and contribute to rebuilding efforts in Syria. For Aramex, the step reinforces its broader focus on market accessibility, resilient supply chains, and inclusive economic participation across the Middle East, North Africa, and Türkiye.


Aramex has invested in operational infra, digital tools, and last-mile capabilities to ensure smooth and consistent service. The company's experience in handling complex logistics challenges positions it to meet demand efficiently, while maintaining high service standards.

The resumption of services to Syria, officially effective from 15 September 2025, is a new chapter in Aramex's regional ops. It underscores the company's commitment to fostering cross-border trade, strengthening linkage in the Levant region, and supporting economic recovery in markets that have been isolated from global logistics networks. As businesses in Syria regain access to trade channels, Aramex's move highlights the importance of reliable logistics in rebuilding regional economies across borders. 🇸🇾



Velora: the new era of Etihad Airport Services

With Abu Dhabi emerging as a key trade hub in the Middle East, its air cargo ops are evolving to meet growing demands. Tech and the latest infra are set to redefine how goods flow through the emirate, improving speed, efficiency, and connectivity, says **Jubran Albreiki, Chief Executive Officer, Velora.**

 CT Bureau

Every day, hundreds of flights and thousands of tonnes of cargo fly through Abu Dhabi, emphasising the growing importance of the emirate as an air cargo hub. Etihad Airport Services has now rebranded as Velora, marking a major step in modernising cargo operations at Zayed International Airport.

The company serves as the only ground and cargo handler at the airport, managing a network of roughly 30 online carriers and an additional 60 offline carriers, whose freight is transported via Dubai International and DWC to Abu Dhabi.

Velora's operations extend beyond routine freight handling. The company has managed logistics for the Formula One Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi since the event's inception more than a decade ago. More recently, it coordinated air cargo operations for a new theme park in the city, thus continuing to support all kinds of air cargo handling.

Earlier this week, Jubran Albreiki, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Velora, said, "The launch of Velora marks a significant milestone as we build on four decades of excellence established by Etihad Airport Services. By uniting our different services under one brand, we aim to enhance every journey for our guests and partners, set new benchmarks in operational excellence, and contribute to Abu Dhabi's growth as a leading aviation hub."



Jubran Albreiki
Chief Executive Officer
Velora

EMCT TO TRANSFORM FREIGHT OPERATIONS

At the centre of Velora's expansion is the East Midfield Cargo Terminal (EMCT), a 90,000-square-metre facility expected to become operational in the latter part of 2027. The terminal will have the capacity to handle 1.5 million tonnes of cargo annually and is designed to integrate modern technology with infrastructure.

The EMCT will feature 21 automated guided vehicles (AGVs), one of the largest deployments in a single cargo terminal worldwide. These AGVs are intended to reduce manual handling in key aspects of cargo operations, streamlining workflow and enhancing efficiency. One of the features of the terminal is its segmented cool chain, designed to maintain consistent temperature control for perishables and pharmaceuticals.

Chambers are in temperature ranges of 0–8°C and 15–25°C, ensuring products remain within required conditions from aircraft arrival to customer delivery. Most times,

the product stays in the temperature range that the customer requires. The terminal will also include a dedicated RFS zone, truck docks with pilot screening machines, bypass lanes for fast-track cargo, a mail handling facility, and an airlock for heavy and out-of-gauge freight requiring crane access. The design is intended to enable faster turnaround times and seamless linkage between flights and trucks.


At the centre of Velora's expansion is the East Midfield Cargo Terminal (EMCT), a 90,000 sqm facility likely to become operational in 2027

Integrated IT systems will coordinate with physical operations to optimise build-up and breakdown processes. Inbound and outbound cargo can be handled at adjacent workstations, reducing unnecessary forklift travel and increasing operational speed. On the landside, trucks will operate based on pre-booked slots. Automated number plate recognition and digital signage will guide vehicles to the correct dock while work orders are simultaneously processed, minimising waiting and queuing times. The EMCT's design as a hub-and-hub system, prioritising efficiency, speed, and cost-effectiveness. With cargo handling evolving, and customer demands, and regulatory requirements changing,

this terminal is designed to meet the needs of the modern air cargo world.

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE FOREFRONT

Sustainability is a core component of Velora's strategy. The terminal is being built to meet SDMR standards, and operational workflows include emissions tracking, etc. All forklift fleets are fully electric, and with electric tractors being phased in for airside ops, the company aims to have cent per cent of its internal warehouse fleet electric within five to six years. A charging station will support the fleet's transition. The company is also exploring autonomous vehicles and drone operations. Velora aims to reach Level 4 autonomy, enabling tractors to operate on predetermined routes without drivers. For drones, bypass lanes will allow fast handling of e-commerce shipments, enabling rapid last-mile delivery.

Velora is collaborating closely with Etihad Cargo, its largest customer, to integrate tech such as SmartTrack and autonomous systems. The goal is to build an integrated control centre where Etihad and Velora teams share a unified view of all cargo flows, including exceptions and autonomous operations, with the EMCT serving as a catalyst for Abu Dhabi's trade growth through tech, sustainability, and process innovation. With this terminal, Velora is preparing to move Abu Dhabi's cargo ops into a new era — one that prioritises speed, efficiency, and sustainability for future tech, from autonomous vehicles to cold chain management. 

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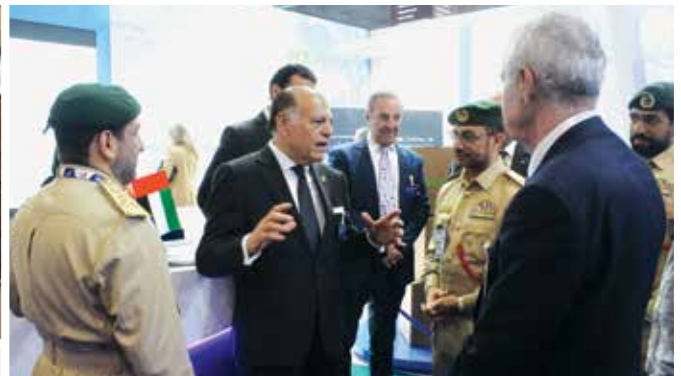
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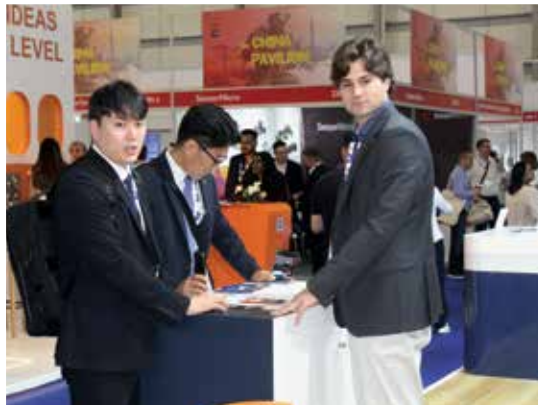
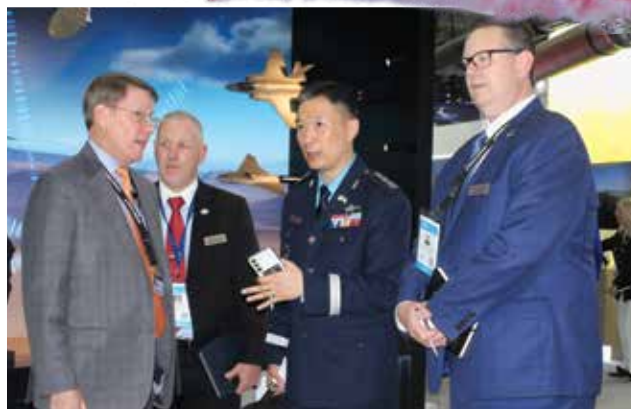

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Dubai Airshow: Stunts in the skies, deals on the ground

The 19th edition of Dubai Airshow 2025 was held from 17–21 November. With the theme ‘The Future is Here,’ the airshow featured 21 country pavilions, 98 chalets, 120 start-ups, and 50 investors. Partnerships were reached, deals were struck, agreements were signed, and new technologies were unveiled at the event.







Agility rebrands as Makhazen, to drive Kuwait's logistics future

Kuwait's growing trade and logistics sector is poised for a boost as Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP changed its corporate image to Makhazen. The move reflects the firm's commitment to modernise supply chains, strengthen warehousing and distribute infra, and support the country's broader economic diversification efforts.

 CT Bureau

Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP, which changed its brand identity to Makhazen, has signalled a sharp focus on supporting Kuwait's trade and logistics infrastructure. The overhaul aligns with the company's Kuwait-focused strategy unveiled in June 2025 and reflects its commitment to advancing initiatives under Vision 2035.

By targeting high-priority non-oil industries, the firm aims to enhance warehousing, distribution, and supply chain infra

Makhazen plans to invest KWD 100 million through 2030 in sectors to strengthen the country's logistics and industrial capabilities. By targeting high-priority non-oil industries, the objective of the firm is to enhance warehousing, distribution, and supply chain infra, critical components for easing trade, improving efficiency, and supporting economic diversification.

Since its establishment under the 1979 Amiri Decree, the firm has played a central role in developing essential warehousing and logistics facilities in Sulaibiya, Doha, and Mina Abdullah.

Makhazen looks to make use of this experience to

drive modern, efficient supply chains to help meet Kuwait's growing trade requirements.

"Today, we are continuing the measures announced in June to position the firm in Kuwait and align with the country's economic priorities. The change of our new brand identity marks the next chapter in our journey as we pursue growth opportunities in trade and logistics arising from the country's economic agenda," said Tarek Sultan, Vice Chairman.

A permanent senior board committee has been set up to oversee development projects. The company has started using its new logo and trademark, with plans to formally change its legal name pending shareholder approval. By rebranding as Makhazen, the company emphasises its role as a platform dedicated to modernising Kuwait's logistics sector. With a focus on efficient supply chains, Makhazen is positioning itself as a driver of trade growth and infrastructure development. 🚚

TIMELINE

- ❖ 1979: Company founded under Amiri Decree
- ❖ 2000s: Expansion of warehousing and logistics facilities
- ❖ 2025: Kuwait-focused strategy announced (June)
- ❖ 2025: Changed brand identity to Makhazen (Nov)





Ali Bin Beyat, CEO, Allied Transport, and Badr Abbas, DSVP, Emirates SkyCargo, receives 40 Euro 6 trucks for its on-road fleet

Low-emission ground fleet for Emirates SkyCargo

The Gulf region is gearing up to create greener transport solutions for supporting its expanding hubs. Emirates SkyCargo is one of the players driving this change. As volumes surge and regional supply chains grow complex, the airline is focusing on technology that reduces emissions without bargaining efficiency.

CT Bureau

Emirates SkyCargo has taken another step toward smarter ground operations by introducing a fleet of next generation Euro 6 trucks, supplied through a partnership with Allied Transport Company. Forty of these long-haul MAN Trucks are now part of its on-road opera-

tions, making the cargo carrier the first in the region to adopt Euro 6 heavy commercial vehicles.

The addition of these trucks is an important evolution in our commitment to sustainable operations, and to investing in future-ready technology that will fuel next era of growth. The firm expects volumes to and

The addition of MAN trucks is an important step in sustainable ops and investing in future-ready technology

through Dubai will continue to grow, driven by Dubai's Economic Agenda and are ready to play the part in better easing global trade by deploying the right equipment and infra across our operations.

REDUCING POLLUTION IN CARGO TRANSPORT

The upgrade is a move aimed at cutting emissions and



improving efficiency of daily cargo flow between Al Maktoum International Airport and Dubai International Airport. The two airports are linked by a 77-km bonded corridor that each truck crosses several times a day, moving 1,000 tonnes of cargo. With this volume, small improvements in fuel efficiency or emissions can make a noticeable impact.

Euro 6 engines are known to meet some of the emissions standards in the world. Compared with older models, the new trucks release far fewer pollutants, helping reduce environmental footprint of cargo operations. Emirates SkyCargo expects the fleet replacement to lower emissions from trucking by at least around 17 per cent annually.

Alongside cleaner engines, the trucks come with safety and technology upgrades. Kerb mirrors, reverse cameras, and blind-spot reduction tools give drivers visibility around the vehicle.

The vehicles are fitted with an AI-powered Driver Monitoring System that gives

alerts if it detects distraction or fatigue in the the driver. These additions help support safer journeys along one of the busiest cargo corridors in the Gulf region.

Each truck is equipped with dual cameras covering the road ahead and the cabin, while GPS and cloud-based tracking offer real-time insights into vehicle movement and driver conditions. Emirates SkyCar-

Euro 6 engines meet emissions standards, and compared with older models, the new trucks release far fewer pollutants

go will also be able to monitor the fleet and make faster, data-driven decisions as and when needed.

For Allied Transport Company — the truck supplier — the rollout is more than just

QUICK FACTS

- ❖ 40 new Euro 6 trucks
- ❖ 17% annual CO₂ reduction expected
- ❖ 1,000 tonnes moved daily
- ❖ 77-km bonded corridor
- ❖ Six trips per truck per day

a fleet upgrade. It is part of a broader push to bring advanced, low-emission transport solutions into the Middle East. CEO Ali Bin Beyat said, “Efficiency and environmental responsibility go hand-in-hand, and this milestone shows how the right partnerships and technology can drive progress for regional logistics.” With volumes through Dubai likely to rise in the coming years, the introduction of Euro 6 trucks position Emirates SkyCargo to handle growth, while keeping sustainability and safety at the centre of its operations. 🇦🇪



2025

Upcoming
Events

NOVEMBER

- 18–19** Wings of Change
Europe
Brussels, Belgium
- 18–20** Aviation Energy
Forum 2025, Mexico
- 24–26** Air Cargo Summit
2025, Shanghai, China
- 25** Logistics Leaders
MENA 2025
Holiday Inn & Suites
Dubai Science Park
- 25–27** Airports Innovate
2025
Toronto Pearson
Airport, Canada
- 27** AERO Asia
Zhuhai, China

DECEMBER

- 2** Global Trade Sympo-
sium, New York, USA
- 2–4** Sustainable Aviation
Futures APAC Cong-
ress, Singapore
- 3** Future of Logistics &
Supply Chain Summit
& Awards
New Delhi, India
- 3–6** Industrial Automa-
tion & Logistics Expo
Jakarta, Indonesia
- 4** EPOMEC 2025
Dubai World Trade
Centre, Dubai
- 10–11** Aviation Forum
Hamburg, Germany
- 16** Global Airports
Forum, Riyadh, King-
dom of Saudi Arabia
- 18–21** Handling Expo 2025
Cairo, Egypt

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

Sokhna Logistics Park boosts Egypt's trade

The launch of DP World's Sokhna Logistics Park is poised to elevate Egypt's stature in trade and logistics. The park aims to streamline supply chains, support key industries, and fortify the country's position as a leading regional and global trade hub.



His Excellency Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Chairman and CEO, DP World, at the launch of Sokhna Logistics Park

CT Bureau

Egypt is strengthening its logistics capabilities to connect with local industries and global markets. The country is positioning itself as a regional and global trade hub, with DP World officially launching a new facility to streamline supply chains and drive economic growth. The Sokhna Logistics Park, developed in partnership with British International Investment (BII), is in the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZONE).

Situated near key industrial and commercial areas, the park spans nearly 300,000 sqm and offers unmatched connectivity, tax and customs benefits, and streamlined trade procedures.

The first phase is now operational, with phase II scheduled for the third quarter of 2026. The park is likely to create 300 jobs and has already attracted strong business interest, with 90 customers in the pipeline and several contracts signed. Sokhna Logis-

The park spans 300,000 sqm and offers unmatched connectivity, tax and customs benefits

tics Park is Egypt's first fully integrated logistics hub, providing bonded and non-bonded solutions, real-time visibility, on-site customs inspections, and a dedicated customer portal. It serves important sectors including agriculture, electronics, textiles, automotive components, construction materials, and electric vehicles, enabling smoother and more efficient trade flows.

"Our commitment in Egypt goes beyond infrastructure," said His Excellency Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Chairman and CEO, DP World. "We are building a sustainable, fully integrated logistics ecosystem that offers end-to-

end solutions, from supplier to customer, driving trade, supporting businesses, and creating jobs."

In line with its strategy to expand trade services, DP World is investing US\$ 29 million towards constructing a 16,000 sqm cold storage facility in 6th of October City, Egypt, to meet the rising demand for energy-efficient, temperature-controlled storage and strengthen supply chain efficiency. 🚚



SolitAir expands reach with first flight to Afghanistan

SolitAir has completed its inaugural cargo flight to Kabul, Afghanistan, marking a new milestone in the airline's regional expansion. Operating to one of the world's highest capital cities situated 1,800 metres above sea level, the route underscores SolitAir's growing presence in Central and South Asia's logistics network. The new service opens trade and supply chain opportunities between Afghanistan and other key markets,



supporting faster, efficient cargo flows across borders. Kabul's location makes it a vital link for linking goods to major hubs in the Middle East and beyond. With

this launch, SolitAir fortifies its regional ops by offering time-sensitive cargo services. SolitAir stated the achievement reflects its focus on expanding routes.

Etihad Cargo, SF Airlines expand China-UAE network



Etihad Cargo and China's SF Airlines have fortified their partnership with a capacity boost linking Abu Dhabi to two of China's busiest logistics hubs, Shenzhen and Ezhou. The move follows their pact signed earlier this year, aiming to build an efficient cargo network. The partnership brings a total of nine weekly freighter flights to Shenzhen and seven to Ezhou, expanding links between the Middle East and Asia. Shenzhen Airport, known for its 24-hour cargo ops, allows quick TATs, while Ezhou Huahu Airport gives access to a vast domestic and global network. Under the pact, both airlines will coordinate schedules, pricing, and services, providing customers with smoother connections and improved reliability.

Qatar Airways Cargo expands Doha-London air cargo operations

Qatar Airways Cargo (QR Cargo) has strengthened the link between Doha and London with 10 extra weekly flights from October. Operated by Airbus A350-1000,

the expansion increases total weekly ops on this route to 66 flights, moving 1,020 tonnes of cargo each week. This move underscores QR Cargo's leadership on one

of the world's busiest cargo corridors, catering to growing demand for pharma, perishables, and high-value shipments. The enhanced schedule supports faster, more flexible cargo ops, while enabling businesses in both markets to streamline their supply chains. QR Cargo is committed to operational efficiency, network growth, and meeting the evolving needs of global trade.



Fast Logistics launches B777F service from Liege to Sharjah

Fast Logistics has enhanced connectivity between Europe and the Middle East with its dedicated B777F service from Liege to Sharjah, launched in October. The new route is designed to enhance



efficiency and reliability for European-Middle Eastern trade, catering to high-value and time-sensitive shipments. This service strengthens supply chains and supports businesses seeking dependable cargo solutions. By combining global reach with regional expertise, Fast Logistics aims to provide seamless logistics ops that keep trade flowing smoothly.

Kenya Airways Cargo's direct flight from Sharjah to Dar es Salaam

Responding to growing demand for reliable regional trade solutions, Kenya Airways Cargo has expanded its network with the launch of its first direct cargo flight from Sharjah to Dar es Salaam.



Plans are underway to increase flight frequency in the coming weeks, enhancing linkage between the UAE and East Africa and supporting faster, more efficient supply chains. This milestone was achieved through collaboration with Alkhor Air Cargo and the support of key stakeholders, reflecting Kenya Airways Cargo's commitment to strengthening regional logistics networks.

SF Express, AIR ONE launch new China–UK cargo link

SF Express and AIR ONE have teamed up to launch a new route between China and the UK, aiming to boost cross-border trade. The service, which operates four times a week, links Ezhou in central China with East Midlands Airport. The route may cut overall transit time between the two nations to four days. It supports growing demand for fast shipping of goods such as e-commerce parcels, high-end electronics, and perishables. The first flight took off from Ezhou on November 2, marking SF Express's first direct all-cargo service to the UK. For AIR ONE, the partnership reflects a focus on linking Asia and Europe through freighter ops.



Korean Air launches new API system to improve efficiency



Korean Air has introduced a new Application Programming Interface (API) system, connecting the platform directly with customers' in-house logistics systems. The digital upgrade is aimed at improving efficiency and transparency as demand for faster, technology-driven logistics continues to rise. Through the new API, partners can perform tasks such as checking schedules, viewing rates, booking shipments, and submitting waybills in real-time, all from their own internal platforms. This integration removes the need for manual data entry and separate system logins, helping businesses streamline their operations.

American Airlines Cargo gears up for winter schedule



American Airlines Cargo is gearing up for a busy winter season with an expanded wide-body schedule across Latin America, the Pacific, and transatlantic routes. The airline stated this will be its largest wide-body capacity out of Latin America since 2022. "We are expanding our network to meet demand and link freight across the world," said Roger Samways, Vice President, Commercial, American Airlines Cargo. From Miami, the carrier will add a fourth daily flight to Buenos Aires, while new routes will connect Dallas Fort Worth to Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires. New York's JFK will see a daily flight to Rio, reflecting growing demand.

Air France, FedEx Logistics partner to promote use of SAF

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo (AFKLMP) and FedEx Logistics have signed a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) pact, marking a step forward in promoting greener air freight ops. The two firms recently celebrated the partnership with their teams in Hong Kong. Through the pact, FedEx Logistics will explore offering a book-and-claim programme enabling its customers to access the environmental benefits of SAF used by AFKLMP. This system allows the firms to support lower-carbon aviation even if SAF is not physically used on their shipments. The collaboration highlights how joint



(Left to Right) Simon Yeung (FedEx), Thomas Diderich (AFKLMP), Jochen Krug (FedEx) and Chris Tam (AFKLMP)

action can accelerate the adoption of cleaner fuels and reduce emissions across the logistics chain. SAF, an alternative to traditional fossil-based jet fuel, can cut lifecycle carbon emissions from air transport.

7Air launches weekly cargo flights to Managua

7Air, in collaboration with Aereomar Express Inc., has launched weekly cargo flights to Managua, Nicaragua, operating every Saturday. The service is designed to provide businesses across Central America with a faster, more reliable option for ferrying goods. The new route strengthens trade within the region by offering consistent capacity and efficient freight solutions. Businesses can now move products faster, which helps them meet delivery deadlines and expand market reach. The partnership between 7Air and Aereomar Express leverages the strengths of both firms to ensure smooth ops and dependable service for the partners. The flights are aimed at supporting cargo, from perishables to industrial products, allowing exporters and importers to benefit from logistics and reduced transit times.



DHL Express invests US\$ 90 mn to boost capacity in New York

DHL Express is investing US\$ 90 million in New York City to expand capacity and improve service in one of its busiest markets — the US. The plan includes new facility leases, upgraded equipment, and advanced material handling systems to increase efficiency and long-term growth. “New York City is a cornerstone of our US network and a key gateway for global trade,” said Greg Hewitt, CEO, DHL Express US. DHL relocated its Manhattan service centre to a 92,505 sqft facility in Jersey City in November-end. The new site features enhanced layouts for faster processing, improved safety, on-site charging infra, and upgraded dispatch capabilities.



Liege Airport, Chicago Rockford to boost cargo connectivity



Liege Airport and Chicago Rockford International Airport have signed a pact to enhance freight linkage between Europe and the US. The partnership, formalised at Transport Logistic Southeast Asia and Air Cargo Southeast Asia in Singapore, is focused on boosting freighter ops and streamlining cargo flows across the Atlantic. The collaboration aims to expand freighter connections, implement joint marketing initiatives, and work together on operational and digital projects. By aligning resources and expertise, both airports seek to create an efficient and resilient corridor for air cargo, benefiting shippers, carriers, and the wider logistics network.

LATAM Cargo ups capacity for South America's fruit export



LATAM Cargo has expanded its ops to support the demand for perishables from South America to global markets. The airline is offering extra capacity for temperature-controlled shipments through its FRESH care service, which maintains products between 2°C and 8°C to preserve freshness throughout the journey. For handling the seasonal surge, LATAM Cargo has increased flight frequencies and boosted warehouse staffing, aiming to reduce handling time and limit product exposure. These steps are designed to ensure faster connections, particularly to key markets in Asia, where demand for South American fruit continues to rise.

11% growth in volumes amid peak season: EMA

East Midlands Airport (EMA) has recorded an 11.4 per cent rise in volumes since last year, handling 240,000 tonnes between May and October. This is almost 25,000 tonnes more than the same period in 2024, highlighting the airport's growing role in supporting UK exports. The airport is now entering its busiest period, with cargo flight movements expected to rise by 63 per cent in the coming weeks, driven by Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and pre-Christmas demand. The surge underscores the importance of EMA's cargo ops to the UK economy. EMA's cargo development will gear up for 54 per cent increase in freight demand over the next 20 years.



FedEx Express Swiss Post opens new facility to boost logistics

FedEx Express Swiss Post has opened a new facility in Gossau, Switzerland, strengthening its logistics ops in Eastern Switzerland and Principality of Liechtenstein. The site consolidates operations previously split between Wängi and Münchwilen, providing an efficient and streamlined setup for administrative and operational activities. The 14,500 sqm facility includes a 3,600 sqm warehouse and 400 sqm office space. Equipped with three truck loading bays and 40 van docks, it increases sorting capacity by 30 per cent, allowing faster, more reliable handling of shipments. Around 35 employees and 10 couriers now work from the site, supporting regional pickup and delivery ops, particularly for e-commerce customers. 📦



Movements



ARAMEX GROUP Dubai

Amadou Diallo will join as the new Group CEO of Aramex, effective 1 May 2026. With 30 years of experience in the logistics industry, he is set to lead Aramex's next phase of growth and transformation. Previously, he served as the CEO, the Middle East and Africa, DHL Global Forwarding.



DHL GLOBAL FORWARDING Dubai

Tobias Maier will be appointed CEO, Freight, DHL Global Forwarding for its Middle East & Africa ops, effective 1 December. He is experienced in finance and digital innovation. With his track record, Maier is set to lead the firm into its next phase of growth.



NATIONAL AIR CARGO INC Dubai

Samantak Dasgupta has joined as new Director, Business Development, Freight Forwarding, National Air Cargo, Inc. Before joining National Air Cargo, he served as Business Head of Logistics at Cozmo Logistics and held leadership roles at MGH Group and Kuehne+Nagel.



SWISSPORT Zurich, Switzerland

Steven Polmans took over as the Global SVP, Cargo, Swissport. Polmans will lead the cargo division, focusing on strategy, business development, and innovation across its global network. He is expected to play a key role in driving sustainable growth and enhancing Swissport's position in the cargo sector.



AJEX LOGISTICS SERVICES USA

Nick Taylor has joined as USA Country Manager, AJEX Logistics Services, where he will expand the firm's footprint. His appointment aligns with non-oil trade between the Gulf and the US. He will focus on supporting US brands entering the region's markets.



AJEX LOGISTICS SERVICES China

Daisy Chai has joined as the Country Manager, China, AJEX Logistics Services, where she will fortify trade linkage between China and the ME. She has built her career across cargo hubs — Tianjin Air Cargo Terminal and the International Cargo Centre Shenzhen.



ECS GROUP Americas

João Ferreira has been appointed the new Regional Commercial Director, Americas, ECS Group. He will lead ECS Group's commercial ops across North and Latin America. Under his leadership, the company aims to deepen ties with airline partners and strengthen its footprint across emerging markets in the region.



CHAPMAN FREEBORN Gatwick, UK

Saska Gerasimova joined as the new Group CEO, Chapman Freeborn. She is experienced in aviation leasing, air freight, logistics, and fleet management. Her appointment signals a leadership evolution, reinforcing the firm focus on customer-centric ops. She will work to fortify ops and drive the firm's long-term vision.



SKYLINK CARGO SERVICES

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Operating Daily Wide Body Aircraft from Dubai to Kabul

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