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January 2025

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ADDED launches trade portal to

Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED) launched Abu Dhabi Trade Information Portal emirate's integrated digital solution for enhancing transparency, reducing costs, and improving operational efficiency. It was launched in collaboration with Abu Dhabi Customs and Maqta Gateway, part of Abu Dhabi Ports Group's Digital Cluster.



transit methods. Using historical data from the Border Meter system, the platform evaluates anticipated timelines and costs per procedure.

According to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, these digital trade platforms can reduce the time spent on customs compliance by up to 50 per cent, and lower operational costs associated with brokers and intermediaries between US\$ 100 and US\$ 1,000 per transaction.

“The launch of the trade portal represents a transformative advancement in Abu Dhabi's advanced trade ecosystem. This platform not only streamlines processes but also underscores our unwavering commitment to cultivating a business-friendly environment and championing an innovative, digital-first approach to international trade.” Mohammed Al Kamali, Chief Trade and Industry Officer, Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), said.

“By empowering businesses to navigate the complexities of trade with unmatched ease and efficiency, the portal strengthens Abu Dhabi's position as a premier global hub for trade and investment,” he added.

“By adopting the principles contained in UNCEFACT Recommendation No.

CT Bureau

Abu Dhabi Trade Information Portal is the latest addition to the suite of digital solutions launched by ADDED, includ-

These digital trade platforms can reduce the time spent on customs compliance by as much as 50%

companies in the emirate to find suitable markets for their products, contributing to GDP growth.

Completing Abu Dhabi's advanced digital trade ecosystem, the trade portal TIP offers comprehensive information on the regulations, fees, taxes, and procedures involved in import, export, and re-export processes.

The platform was launched in collaboration with Abu Dhabi Customs and Maqta Gateway, part of Abu Dhabi Ports Group's Digital Cluster.

The trade portal covers all stages of the journey, from information on laws and policies to the digital issuance of essential documentation such as permits, licences, and certifications. It also provides ready-to-use templates for standard trade documents, such as Bills of Lading and Certificates of Origin, making it easier for companies to comply with regulations and complete transactions smoothly.

By using Harmonised System codes, the TIP offers tailored and step-by-step information for each transaction, based on product details and

ing the Advanced Trade and Logistics Platform (ATLP), designed to digitise trade processes across sea, land, and airports, special economic zones, and free zones in Abu Dhabi. ATLP includes the Abu Dhabi Export Gateway (ADEG), enabling exporting

Collaborators

- Abu Dhabi Customs
- Maqta Gateway

Services

- Information on law and policies
- Digital issuance of essential documentation
- Templates for standard trade documents

Highlights

- This initiative will foster a transparent trade climate
- It will streamline processes but also cultivate an innovative, digital-first approach to international trade

facilitate exports, imports



Mohammed Al Kamali
Chief Trade and Industry Officer
Abu Dhabi Investment Office



Poul Hansen
Chief, Trade Facilitation
UNCTD



Fahd Ghareeb Al Shamsi
Executive Director
Support Services Sector
Abu Dhabi Customs



Pierre Bonthonneau
Head, Trade and Investment
Facilitation, International Trade Centre

“By fortifying bizs to navigate complexities of trade, the portal strengthens Abu Dhabi’s position as a trade hub.”

38 and inspired by UNCTAD’s methodology and Roadmap for building a national TIP, Abu Dhabi has established a best practice platform with the objective of creating transparency and simplification of trade proce-

The portal offers step-by-step information for each transaction, based on product details and transit methods

dures,” Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said.

The launch of the trade portal marks a significant milestone in enhancing trade and supply chain transparency and efficiency in the region, fostering economic growth,” he added.

“The portal marks a milestone in enhancing trade and supply chain transparency and efficiency.”

“The introduction of the portal supports Abu Dhabi on its journey towards a smart, diversified and resilient economy, while contributing to its rapidly expanding economic infrastructure. With a focus on trade facilitation and logistics integration, Abu Dhabi Customs is working closely with its strategic partners to enhance operational processes, to provide expert support for businesses and enhance foreign trade in alignment with the international best practices. By harnessing our logistics capabilities, digital expertise and Artificial Intelligence-powered technologies, we are also simplifying procedures and enhancing efficiency, particularly in commercial customs corridors and automated services, to improve the customer experience, support trade facilitation and to ensure the smooth flow of logistics operations,” Fahd Ghareeb Al Shamsi, Executive Director, Support Services Sector, Abu Dhabi Customs, added.

The ADDED has launched the TIP the emirate’s integrated digital solution to facilitate import, export, and re-export

“Abu Dhabi Customs is working closely with its strategic partners to enhance foreign trade.”



procedures, enhancing transparency, reducing costs, and improving operational efficiency. “Abu Dhabi’s adoption of best practices from ITC and UNCTAD in developing the trade portal is commendable. This initiative will foster a more transparent and predict-

“The portal will foster a trade environment & strengthen emirate’s attractiveness to investors.”

able trade environment, thereby strengthening the emirate’s attractiveness to investors and traders and driving its economic growth,” Pierre Bonthonneau, Head, Trade and Investment Facilitation, International Trade Centre (ITC), commented. 🇦🇪

Abu Dhabi Customs launches 2024 to 2028 Strategic Plan

General Administration of Abu Dhabi Customs has unveiled its 2024 to 2028 Strategic Plan, designed to align with the vision of the Abu Dhabi gov't and UAE's forward-looking strategies. The plan reinforces the customs' position as a world-class customs authority, working to facilitate legitimate and secure trade by adopting cutting-edge digital technologies.

CT Bureau

His Excellency Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori, Director General, Abu Dhabi Customs, said that the 2024 to 2028 strategic plan continues Abu Dhabi Customs' journey towards sustainable development to consolidate its leadership locally and globally among customs authorities.

The Abu Dhabi Customs strategic plan employs advanced and modern technologies, such

“ We will continue our journey to consolidate leadership among the customs authorities.”



His Excellency Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori
Director General
Abu Dhabi Customs

as blockchain, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML), to implement a coordinated border management system. This would enhance partnerships and facilitate trade, and utilise data analysis in order to generate insights for improving customs operations and support services.

The plan is based on six key objectives: Enhancing customer experience to make Abu Dhabi the preferred trade destination, boosting revenue collection and contributing to the economic growth and competitiveness, contributing to community security through enhanced

compliance and effective risk management, establishing a culture of excellence through innovative transformation and sustainability, building the future of the customs work through professional talent management, and leveraging advanced and future technology in Abu Dhabi Customs work to achieve digital leadership.



“The roadmap of Abu Dhabi Customs for the next five years includes implementation of 28 strategic projects. The notable among these projects includes enhancing pre-arrival goods clearance transaction rates in Abu Dhabi, reducing average clearance time, and achieving cent per cent compliance with international agreements, policies, and customs procedures,” His Excellency Al Mansoori added.



PLACI regimes to impact 35% of global air cargo shipments

Air cargo industry is witnessing developments in pre-loading risk assessments, with expansion of various Pre-Loading Advance Cargo Information (PLACI) regimes. By 2025, PLACI regimes will impact 35% of air cargo shipments globally. The impact on industry is significant, requiring substantial investments from airlines, ground handlers, forwarders.

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In the UAE, the Federal Decree Law No. 22 of 2018 and Resolution No. 15 of 2019 established the legal framework for the PLACI programme, applicable to air cargo crossing UAE borders. IATA and its members have played a pivotal role in developing the UAE PLACI Programme Implementation Guide and supporting pilot deployments.

Since July, the UAE National Advance Information Centre expects air carriers to provide the required

ing an 'informed compliance' (i.e. grace) period anticipated to last until the second quarter of 2025.

PRE-LOADING RISK ASSESSMENTS

The industry is witnessing significant developments in pre-loading risk assessments, with the expansion of various PLACI regimes. Following the 2018 launch of the United States Air Cargo Advance Screening, and European Union ICS2 programme last year, other regions are now adopting similar measures. These initiatives aim to deliver initial data-based risk assess-



data (based on master/house waybill and cargo manifest information) as early as possible before loading at the last airport of departure outside the UAE. use one of the supported channels described in the UAE PLACI Air Implementation Guide (direct integration, use of a third-party service provider or use of the NAIC Portal), manage risk assessment outcomes (referrals) prior to shipment loading. The UAE is currently implement-

ments, to identify or mitigate high-risk air cargo shipments that may conceal improvised explosive devices before loading onto an aircraft departing to the PLACI implementing country.

IMPACT OF PLACI REGIMES

By 2025, PLACI regimes will impact 35 per cent of air cargo shipments internationally. The impact on the industry is significant, requiring sub-

PLACI IN THE UAE

In the UAE, the Federal Decree Law No. 22 of 2018 and Resolution No. 15 of 2019 established the legal framework for the PLACI programme, applicable to all air cargo crossing UAE borders. Since July, the UAE National Advance Information Centre expects air carriers to:

- Provide the required data (based on master/house waybill and cargo manifest information) as early as possible before loading at the last airport of departure outside the UAE
- Use one of the supported channels described in the UAE PLACI Air Implementation Guide (direct Integration, use of a third-party service provider or use of the NAIC Portal)
- Manage risk assessment outcomes ("referrals") prior to shipment loading

COMPLIANCE MEASURES

Availability of new data: Establishing new business processes among carriers, freight forwarders, and shippers to collect and transmit necessary data.


Support new data: Updating cargo management and operational systems to accommodate the new data requirements.

Transmission of new data: Enhancing customs filing solutions to ensure the effective transmission of this data.

Receiving new customs status responses: Implementing systems and procedures to manage customs responses and trigger appropriate actions.

Quality control and compliance procedures must be established to ensure all shipments meet PLACI requirements throughout their journey. Failure to adhere to these new security directives can lead to severe repercussions, including sanctions on carriers, declaration rejection, manual interventions, delayed or refused customs clearance, denial of uplift, and license suspension.

stantial investments from airlines and their partners such as ground handlers, freight

forwarders and shippers, in order to comply with the new PLACI requirements. 


MOMENTUM BUILDS: AIR CARGO SECTOR EYES ALTERING 2025



Air cargo industry never ceases to amaze the players across the globe for its resilience and commitment. 2024 proved to be a year where the numbers for the industry exceeded 2019, and it is expected 2025 will continue the momentum. One of the key aspects which transformed the industry was e-commerce; it has accelerated its growth not in one region, but in many across the globe.





 Dr. Shehara Rizly

Air freight industry rose in the Middle East region due to the geopolitical situation which drove shipments over air, which derived a good portion of the market driving it as one of the most profitable areas. Bilateral agreements between nations, especially in the UAE and the rest of the Middle East region, has paved the way for efficient trade relations. As a region, the Middle East has secured a powerful position in terms of express delivery and air cargo services, with high value goods such as electronics and pharmaceuticals.

Bilateral pacts between the UAE and the rest of the Middle East region have paved way for efficient trade relations

Integrating technology and innovation to the industry has seen both a transformation and advancement. From efficient digital platforms to robotics, AI, IoT, blockchain to automation, the industry enhances its service offerings. Sustainable

Contd. on next page ►



Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport will boost the region's logistics capacity & position it as a trade hub

sensitive cargo such as perishables. These are just a some of the most important drivers for the year where the region will evolve as a hub for innovation and innovation in the air cargo, logistics and supply chain.

FACT FILE

- Sustainable logistics is another important aspect, which will receive more focus this year as MNCs is balancing their activities for the betterment of the logistics industry.

logistics is another important aspect, which will receive more focus this year as MNCs is balancing their activities for the betterment of the indus-

try. Projects such as Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport, set to become the world's largest, will boost the region's logistics capacity and

position it as an international trade hub.

The air cargo industry is focusing on high value and

e-commerce, urgent shipments to drive growth

In 2025, the air cargo industry would see continued growth driven by rising demand for urgent shipments and e-commerce. The integration of automation technologies and digitisation across operations will streamline pro-



Martin Bremen
Managing Director
DIMOS

“Integration of automation tech and digitisation across operations will enhance efficiency.”

cesses and enhance efficiency. While economic uncertainties remain, I anticipate a rise in volumes, especially as industries adapt to supply chain challenges. The shift toward regional trade pacts and nearshoring strategies could impact the industry.”

We are optimistic about air cargo growth in 2025

I anticipate a wave of growth in the next year. While recent developments in the USA have introduced a speck of uncertainty regarding international trade levels, we at DHL Global Forwarding remain optimistic about continued progress in the Middle East. The region is witnessing investments and large-scale projects, and we are collaborating with partners to support the development of critical infrastructure. From solar fields to enhance energy supply to new road networks, advancements are underway.”



Tobias Maier
CFO, DHL Global
Forwarding MEA

“Recent developments in the USA have introduced a speck of uncertainty regarding international trade.”

Focus to foster pacts between stakeholders

In the coming year, we are planning to expand our capabilities and deepen our integration of digital technologies. A significant focus will be fostering collaboration among all stakeholders—authorities, regulators, freight forwarders, and



Saeed Kamara
Head, Cargo
flynas

“This synergy to drive transformative changes, streamlining processes and delivering significant commercial impact.”

cargo agents among others—all working together as a unified team. This synchronisation of energy will drive transformative changes, streamlining processes and delivering significant commercial impact.”



Dubai's infra to boost trade to AED 254 million

In the next year and the coming years will see double-digit growth, particularly in Dubai. The city's robust infrastructure—right from ports to airports—combined with the ambitious Dubai Economic Agenda 33, which aims to promote trade to as many as



Mohamed Jassim Al Rais
Executive Director, Al Rais Travel and shipping Agencies

“This expansion and developments promise a strong outlook for the air cargo and logistics industry.”

AED 25 trillion over the next decade, will drive this expansion. These developments promise a strong outlook for air cargo and logistics industries, positioning the coming years to outperform the previous ones.”

4 more freighters to expand capacity in Ethiopian Cargo

In the next year, Ethiopian Cargo will increase its cargo capacity significantly as we plan to add four more aircraft to our fleet in the first quarter—two Boeing 767s and two Boeing 777s. Our fleet expansion will strengthen our ability to serve the market more effectively.

We anticipate that this year will turn out to be most lucrative with our plans for the year. The aviation industry in the African region is booming, there is interest from across the globe as it is one of the most untouched markets in the world.”

“Aviation industry in African region is booming; it is one of the most untouched markets in the globe.”



Yamrot Nigussie
Cargo Manager
Ethiopian Airlines

KSA, India emerging as new markets in 2025

Significant changes are likely in the New Year, particularly in traditional trade routes. Reliance on moving goods primarily from China will shift as new markets emerge: India and KSA would become key players. We anticipate increased activity



Shankar Subramoniam
CEO, Salt Tech International

“Transit movement between countries will improve, and e-commerce sector, has seen rapid growth.”

in the Mediterranean region, and Europe is preparing for these changes as well. Overall, transit movement between the countries will improve, and e-commerce sector has seen rapid growth.”

2025 might create good climate for trade

We are optimistic about 2025. Compared to 2024, we anticipate at least a 20 per cent increase in business volume across air freight, sea freight, and other segments. By then, we also hope regional tensions will have subsided, creating a favour-



Jophin Varghese
CEO
Freighter

“We are now expanding our efforts to develop import shipments from Europe to the GCC nations.”

able environment for trade. We are now expanding our efforts to develop import shipments from Europe to the GCC. There is activity in imports from South America to this region.”



More regulations in many countries in New Year

In 2025, we will see more regulations introduced in several countries, compelling firms not just to measure their environmental impact, but reduce it. In air cargo, one straightforward solution to lower CO2 emissions is shifting to sea freight. However, that is often



Matt Petot
CEO and Founder
CargoAi

“In air cargo, one straightforward solution to lower carbon emissions is shifting to ocean freight.”

not practical, as air cargo is used out of necessity, not preference. An alternative, instead of shifting from air to sea freight, is optimizing air cargo routes. Choosing efficient routes or airlines can reduce emissions by up to 50 per cent.”

Industry down path of optimism in New Year

The situation presents a positive opportunity. Broadly speaking, geopolitical unrest in the region—Russia-Ukraine conflict, and tensions in Palestine, Lebanon—led to disruptions. We have seen vessels attacked, forcing ships to reroute through the Cape of Good



Nadia Abdul Aziz
President
NAFL

Hope. In 2025, we are hopeful the industry would go down the path of optimism it has been going so far. The popularity of multimodal transport is also rising as businesses strive to deliver goods on time and optimize their supply chain routes.”

“Unrest in the region—Russia-Ukraine conflict, and tensions in Palestine, Lebanon—led to disruptions.”

Exposing chinks, creating solutions is our goal

Covid-19 has revealed weaknesses in supply chains, particularly in processes that organisations rely on. Shippers, and service providers struggle to collaborate effectively within this ecosystem. Our goal is to address these issues by exposing



Archival Garcia
CEO
Fluent Cargo

“The challenge is to standardise how data is communicated, shared, and used to support each other.”

inefficiencies and creating solutions that are accessible to everyone. The challenge is to standardise how data is communicated, shared, and used to support each other.” 🚚

Join NAFL / FIATA to get connected for networking and business opportunities



Here's why you should consider being a member:

International Benefits:

- + The FIATA member certificate
- + Use of the Fiata logo
- + Entry in the FIATA members directory & networking events
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- + Discounted rates in participating in global and regional conferences
- + Assistance in case of legal advocacy
- + Discounts for cargo/logistic events and exhibition stands
- + Discount training for NAFL members
- + Training/Certification for regional/international courses
- + Insurance at discounted rates (cargo/liability/medical)
- + Complimentary internship, Skill upgrade and Mentoring & Innovation ideas
- + Discounted supplier rates for industry products

Be the Industry voice, protect yourself by STC, Insurance and maritime advice, network B2B, B2C

ACCREDITATIONS



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Middle East sets standards in air cargo & supply chain efficiency

Demand for air cargo globally has seen a surge over past year. Middle East has held its position as it is one of the most resilient regions across the globe. The latest data reveal that the region's carriers witnessed 4.5% year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in October with the capacity increased 0.8% year-on-year, as per experts.

 Dr. Shehara Rizly

Leveraging its strategic location, the Middle East is rapidly transforming into a global hub for air cargo, logistics and supply chain. Some of the key factors which contribute to the rise of this industry is its world-class infrastructure development and progressive policies. The region is reshaping the future of global trade and commerce by creating mega logistics hubs setting new standards in efficiency and scale with examples of facilities such as

Creation of SEZs focused on logistics such as the Saudi logistics hub and Qatar free zones, drive integral solutions for air cargo and different value-added services

Dubai World Central (DWC), King Salman International Airport, and Hamad International Airport.

Secondly, creation of specialised economic zones (SEZ), focused on logistics

such as the Saudi logistics hub and Qatar free zones, drive integral solutions for air cargo and the various value-added services.

Last and most importantly is the digital transformation

with modern technology and innovation. Advanced technologies such as AI, IoT, blockchain, among others are enabling real-time tracking, predictive analytics, and seamless operations.

FACT FILE

- The region is reshaping the future of global trade and commerce by creating mega logistics hubs seeing new standards in efficiency.

Domestic demand has increased this year

There is a steady volume growth in early 2024 following the global air cargo surge throughout the previous festive season. Momentum was carried throughout the year, with demand, particularly for e-commerce, booming. The demand within the UAE do-



Guillaume Crozier
SVP, UAE Cargo & Global
Cargo Strategy, dnata

“Momentum was carried throughout the year with demand, particularly for e-commerce, booming.”

mestic market has solidly grown, and sea and air volumes are rocketing throughout UAE. This is testament to the multimodal services offered in Dubai, catering to rising demand for sea-air products.

Rise in e-commerce boost air cargo, supply chains

The Middle East's logistics is likely to grow by 5 per cent, outpacing the global average. This growth is driven by the region's economic diversification, particularly in the UAE and KSA, focusing on logistics, manufacturing, and technology.



Axel Herzhauser
Global Managing
Director, WeFreight

“This growth is driven by the region's economic diversification, particularly in the UAE and the KSA.”

The Middle East's strategic location has made it a key transit hub, enhancing air cargo and logistics operations. The rise of e-commerce continues to fuel demand for fast and efficient delivery systems, boosting the air cargo and supply chains.”

Etihad to launch new freighters to Paris in 2025

The Middle East's strategic location has positioned it as a vital logistics hub. Current global challenges affecting rail and ocean freight have increased reliance on air cargo as the only viable option. The growth of Etihad's passenger fleets and expansion of key desti-



Stanislas Brun
Vice President Cargo
Etihad Cargo

“Current global challenges affecting rail and ocean freight have risen reliance on cargo as the only viable option.”

nations, including the 10 recently announced, such as Hong Kong and Taipei, support this rise. We will launch a new freighter service to Paris in 2025, reinforcing its pivotal role in supply chains.

Rise in e-commerce spurs logistics growth

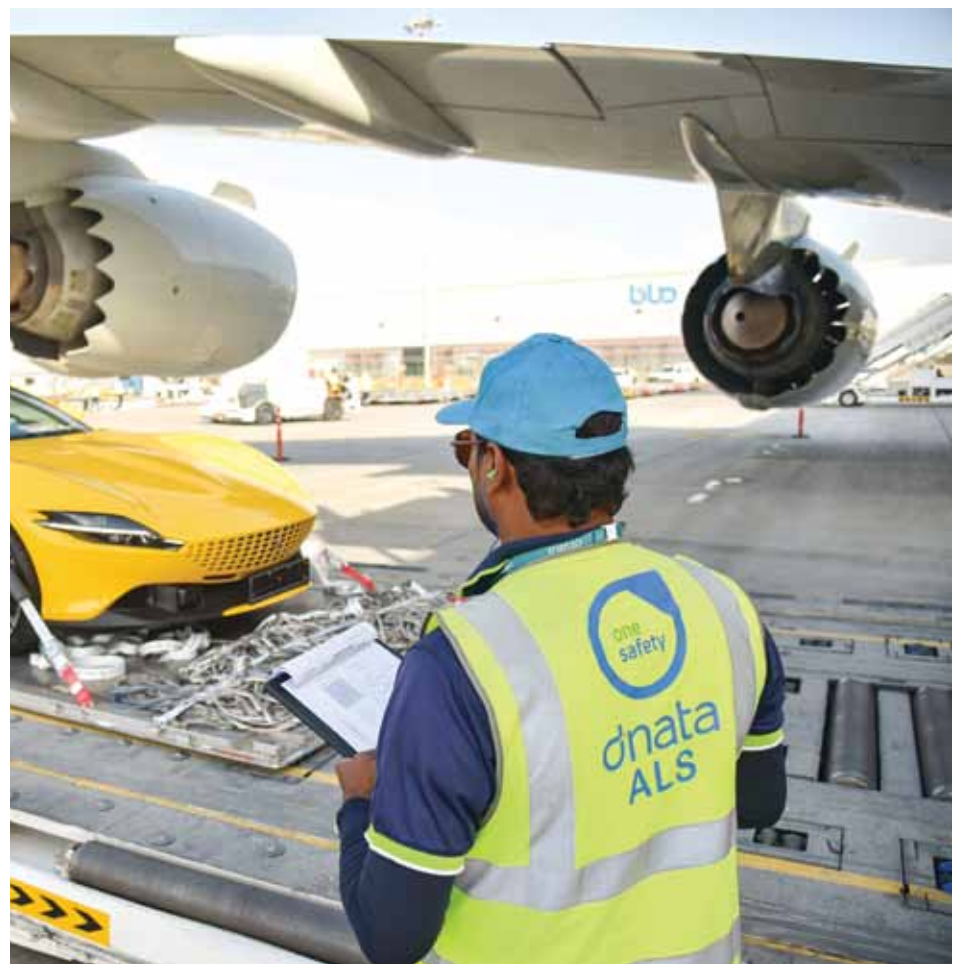
The rise of air cargo, logistics, and supply chain in the Middle East is fuelled by its strategic location, connecting key global markets. The growth of e-commerce and diversification has spurred demand for efficient logistics services. Enhanced connectivity, faster delivery



Zameer Marikkar
Chief Commercial
Officer, Fits Cargo

“Enhanced linkage, faster delivery times, position the Middle East region as an indispensable trade hub.”

times, and position the Middle East as a trade hub. This environment provides opportunities to expand services, build strategic partnerships, and set benchmarks for operational excellence.”



Stress on digitalisation to boost cargo sector

The rise of air cargo, logistics, and supply chain in the Middle East in 2025 is driven by several key factors. The region's location as a global crossroads between Asia, Europe, and Africa facilitates seamless trade. Investments in world-class infra, such as modern air-



A.S. Azimi
CEO and MD, Azimi
Cargo and Logistics

“ Investments in infra, such as modern airports, seaports, and logistics hubs, have enhanced operational efficiency.”

ports, seaports, and logistics hubs, have enhanced operational efficiency. Stress on digital transformation, development of integrated networks, have improved transportation management systems.”

Shifting tides in global logistics in New Year

The logistics industry is poised for significant transformation next year. Key trends will reshape traditional trade routes, with the reliance on China for moving goods to shift to a different direction as KSA and emerge as major players. This shift will open open new opportunities in these burgeoning markets. The Mediterranean region will witness increased activity, with Europe preparing for these changes, enhancing transit movement between countries.”



Razmal Assen
Executive Director, India
UAE and Kenya
Scanwell Logistics LLC

“ The Mediterranean region will witness more activity, with Europe preparing for enhancing transit between nations.”

Focus on sustainability reshapes supply chains

The rise of air cargo, logistics, and supply chain in the Middle East is driven by several factors. Firstly, the region's geographical location acts as a global hub, linking major markets across Europe, Asia, and Africa. This has led to investments



Yusuf Najim
CEO
Orbit Logistics

“ The growth of e-commerce has increased demand for the rapid delivery services.”

in infrastructure, including airports and logistics facilities, enhancing operational efficiency. Secondly, the growth of e-commerce has increased demand for rapid delivery services.

Ushering in an era of growth for industry

The rise of air cargo, logistics, and supply chain operations in the Middle East is driven by factors such as the region's geographical location, cutting-edge infrastructure advanced airports and free zones, and the growing demand for high-value shipments, perishables,



Farzad Rustami
Managing Director, Skylink
Cargo Services LLC.

“ Technological advancements, such as automation and AI, are enhancing operational efficiency.”

and pharma. This growth is ushering in a new era for the industry, characterised by global benchmarks in speed, connectivity, and innovation. Technological advancements, such as automation and AI, are enhancing operational efficiency.”



Economic diversification fuel demand for air cargo

The Middle East has emerged as an ideal hub for air cargo. Countries such as the UAE, Qatar, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have recognised potential of air cargo and have invested in expanding their aircraft fleets, modernising their




Aashfee Hameed
Group Pricing Manager, Air
Freight, Compass Logistics

“ The UAE, Qatar, and the KSA, have recognised potential of air cargo and have expanded their fleets.”

transport and airport infrastructure, and enhancing terminal capacity and efficiency. Economic diversification in e-commerce, and real estate, has fueled the demand for air cargo.”

Airlines project **US\$1 trillion** revenue milestone in 2025

Recent financial outlook by the IATA sheds light on the air cargo industry's growth prospects and the factors shaping the future of Middle East logistics. While global air cargo and passenger transport have faced ongoing challenges, the airlines and logistics firms capitalised on their position to maintain a competitive edge.

 CT Bureau

The Middle East has consistently outperformed other regions in terms of profitability, and the financial outlook for 2025 remains strong. IATA projects Middle Eastern airlines will report a net profit of US\$ 5.9 billion in the next year, marking a slight improvement from

1.007 trillion, an increase of 4.4 per cent from 2024 and will be the first time that industry revenues top US\$ 1 trillion mark. Cargo volumes are expected to reach 72.5 million tonnes, a 5.8 per cent increase from 2024.

“In 2025, industry revenues will exceed US\$ 1 trillion for the first time. It is also important to put that into perspective. A trillion dollars is a lot—almost 1 per cent of the global economy. That makes airlines a strategically important industry. But remember that airlines carry US\$ 940 billion in costs, not to mention interest and taxes. They retain a net profit margin of just 3.6 per cent. To put it another way, the buffer between profit and loss, even we are expecting in 2025, is just US\$ 7 per passenger. With margins that thin, the airlines must continue to watch every cost and insist on similar efficiency across the supply chain—especially from our monopoly infrastructure suppliers who all too often let us down on performance and efficiency,” Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA, said.

“The region's hub airports, such as those in Dubai, Doha, and Abu Dhabi, have become key transit points for cargo



and international passengers, reinforcing the Middle East's central role as a player in global logistics and transportation. Cargo revenues are projected to reach US\$ 157 billion in 2025, accounting for 15.6 per cent of total industry revenues. Demand is likely to grow by 6.0 per cent, although average yields are expected to decrease slightly by 0.7 per cent. Despite this slight drop, yields will remain significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels. While freight rates, quoted in 2014 dollars per kilogram, are forecast to be US\$ 1.34, a decrease of US\$ 0.06 from 2024, yet still 24.4 per cent below the levels seen in 2014,” he added.

Several key trends are likely to continue benefiting the air

cargo sector in 2025. These include ongoing geopolitical uncertainties that affect sea freight routes through the Suez Canal as well as the continued surge in e-commerce, particularly from Asia. Middle Eastern airlines have thus far remained resilient, with Gulf carriers showing minimal impact from regional conflicts. The region's infrastructure has proven robust enough to weather these challenges, making it a key player in the global supply chain network. With an optimistic financial outlook for 2025, the logistics and freight industries of the region are positioned to take advantage of the opportunities. 

2025 KEY INDICATORS

US\$ 5.9 billion
NET PROFIT

US\$ 157 billion
CARGO REVENUE

5.8%
CARGO DEMAND INCREASE

72.5 million tonnes
CARGO VOLUMES

the US\$ 5.3 billion expected in 2024. This positive performance is largely attributed to the region's well-established aviation infrastructure, and strategic investments in logistics and freight that foster growth.

The total industry revenues are expected to be US\$



Resilient cargo market reports 15 consecutive months of growth

Global air cargo market continues to experience growth, with October 2024 marking the 15th consecutive month of increasing demand. IATA's latest data reveals a 9.8% growth in overall demand, while Middle East carriers witnessed growth in demand, driven by industrial production, global trade, and a shift in manufacturing, says **Willie Walsh, DG, IATA**.

 CT Bureau

According to the IATA data for global air cargo market, Middle Eastern carriers experienced a 4.5 per cent year-on-year increase in air cargo demand, with the Middle East-Europe standing out at an impressive 15.3 per cent growth. This performance aligns with a sustained growth in the global air cargo demand, marking the 15th consecutive month, with total demand rising by 9.8 per cent compared to the same period in 2023, and 10.3 per cent for international operations. The region's role as a key transit hub for intercontinental shipments continues to sustain its position in global air cargo.

International routes have experienced exceptional increase for five straight months, with a 10.3 per cent year-on-year increase in October. Airlines are benefiting from the rising e-commerce demand in the USA and Europe, given the ongoing capacity constraints in ocean shipping due to Red



Willie Walsh
Director General
IATA

Sea conflict. Across the globe, carriers have seen consistent growth in international traffic throughout the year, industry capacity has reached record

highs for 10 straight months. Year-to-date, available cargo-tonne kilometres have surged by 8.1 per cent, highlighting this year as an outstanding one for cargo capacity.

“The air cargo markets continued their strong performance in October, with demand rising to 9.8 per cent year-on-year and capacity up 5.9 per cent. Global air cargo yields, including surcharges, continued to rise, up 10.6 per cent on 2023 and 49 per cent on 2019 levels,” Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA, said. “While this year is shaping up to be a banner year for air cargo, we must look to the next year with some caution. The

“Incoming Trump government’s announcement has the potential to upend global supply chains.”

incoming Trump administration in the USA announced to impose significant tariffs on its top trading partners—Canada, China and Mexico—has the potential to upend international supply chains and undermine consumer confidence. The industry’s proven adaptability to rapidly evolving geopolitical and economic situations is likely to be tested as the Trump agenda unfolds,” he added.

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

Asia Pacific: Asia-Pacific airlines witnessed the highest demand growth in October, with a significant 13.4 per cent year-on-year rise in the air

Key Insights

- Middle East air cargo demand rose 4.5%, with Europe routes growing 15.3%
- International air cargo demand increased 10.3%, sustaining 15-month growth streak

Predictions

- Middle East shall remain pivotal as a transit hub despite global disruptions
- Global cargo capacity has grown for 10 consecutive months, with expected growth in 2025





cargo demand. This growth was fuelled by 9.3 per cent increase in capacity. The increase in belly capacity, up by 8.5 per cent, and the expansion of dedicated freighter capacity are key contributors to the region's impressive performance.

North America: In North America, the air cargo demand showed strong growth, rising by 9.5 per cent in October 2024 compared to the pre-

Asia-Pacific airlines recorded highest demand growth in October, with 13.4% YoY rise in air cargo demand."

vious year. Similarly, cargo capacity also increased by 5.8 per cent, signaling an expansion in the ability of the region to meet demand.

Europe: European carriers experienced a year-on-year demand growth of 7.6 per cent in October 2024, reflecting a positive, but moderate performance relatively to other regions. Capacity in the region rose by 3.9 per cent. The region's reliance on air cargo for

industries such as pharmaceuticals and automotives, along with a resurgence in global manufacturing activity, has helped sustain demand.

Latin America: Latin America reported the most remarkable performance in October 2024, with cargo demand rising by 18.5 per cent year-on-year, the highest growth among all regions. This surge was supported by a 5.8 per cent increase in capacity. The region's growth is attributed to several factors, including increased demand for time-sensitive goods and the ongoing strength of e-commerce.

Africa: African airlines, on the other hand, experienced the slowest demand growth in October 2024, with a modest 1.6 per cent increase compared to the previous

Air Cargo Market in Detail					
	World Share*1	October 2024 (%year-on-year)			
		CTK %	ACTK %	CLF (%-pt) *2	CLF (level) *3
Total Market	100	9.8	5.9	1.7	47.3
Africa	2.0	1.6	7.7	-2.4	40.1
Asia Pacific	33.3	13.4	9.3	1.8	49.3
Europe	21.4	7.6	3.9	1.9	55.5
Latin America	2.8	18.5	5.8	4.4	41.1
Middle East	13.5	4.5	0.8	1.7	48.0
North America	26.9	9.5	5.8	1.4	41.1

(*1) % of industry CTKs in 2023 (*2) Year-on-year change in load factor (*3) Load factor level

year. However, cargo capacity increased by 7.7 per cent, which is the highest among all regions. Despite this expansion, the slow demand growth highlights some of the challenges within the African

air cargo industry. With capacity expansion occurring across the board, the airlines will need to adapt to these trends in order to maintain the growth momentum in an uncertain global market.



Over 40 organisations commit to ‘Aviation 4 All’ goals for net zero

TIACA announced it has signed a joint declaration supporting the launch of the joint declaration developed by IAF. We are pleased to support this initiative, and we cannot wait to get to work in supporting its implementation. So far over 40 organisations have signed the declaration, says **Steven Polmans, Chair**.

 CT Bureau

The ‘Aviation 4 All’ initiative was developed by the International Aviation Forum (IAF) to set out clear goals to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity. So far over 40 organisations have signed the declaration and others are encouraged to consider adding their support to the initiative.

Some of the significant points of the declaration are as follows:

Delivering on environmental commitments to provide a net zero industry; enhancing the workplace to establish an inclusive and diverse working environment, regardless of age, religion, gender, academic or physical ability or national origin; increasing connectivity to enhance global accessibility; working with the governments to enhance safety and security to protect passengers, shippers, and the workforce; integrating throughout the value chain in order to provide an improved shipper experience, adopting seamless technology-based solutions; a dedicated focus on improving the operational performance in a bid to minimise the service disruptions; delivering financial efficiencies to lower the barrier of access so that a greater percentage of the international population can reap the benefits of domes-



Glyn Hughes
Director General, TIACA




Steven Polmans
Chair, TIACA

“TIACA is thrilled to be invited to support initiatives such as the ‘Aviation 4 All’ joint declaration.”

“We are pleased to support the joint declaration, and cannot wait to get the initiative implemented.”

tic and global air travel; enhancing the positive impact that the commercial sector has on the global society through ris-

ing opportunities for prosperity and cultural integration.

“TIACA’s support of the ‘Aviation 4 All’ Joint Declaration is a natural extension of the work that we do on behalf of the industry. We are pleased to support this initiative, and we cannot wait to get to work in supporting its implementation,” Steven Polmans, Chair, TIACA, said. “We are thrilled to be invited to support initiatives such as the ‘Aviation 4 All’ vision as it confirms the value the global aviation community sees in what TIACA is doing to support the international air cargo industry and the contents of the declaration are fully aligned to what we see as being vital for the sustainable growth and development of our industry,” Glyn Hughes, Director General, TIACA. 



SolitAir launches daily cargo flights between Dubai & Riyadh

Newly launched air cargo carrier targets key Global South trade routes with an agile middle-mile model. SolitAir, a Dubai-based newly launched air cargo carrier fulfilling middle-mile logistics demand, has announced the inauguration of its first daily scheduled flights between Dubai and Riyadh, says **Hamdi Osman, Founder & CEO, SolitAir**.

The service, between Dubai World Central (DWC) and Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport (RUH), started on 4 December 2024 to address the growing demand for rapid and reliable logistics solutions between the two regional hubs, which collectively handle 1.2 million tonnes of air freight annually.

Carrying cargo on both legs of the journey, the service will be available five days a week, Tuesday to Saturday. It is operated by SolitAir's first narrow-body Boeing 737-800 freighter, with a capacity of 23 tonnes. Two more Boeing 737-800 freighters will join SolitAir's fleet before the end of the year to enable the company's immediate expansion plans which include routes to India and Bangladesh, key markets across Africa, the Stan countries and other Middle Eastern hubs. Eventually, SolitAir aims to link over 50 Global South cities within a six-hour flying radius from Dubai. Based at its dedicated



Hamdi Osman
Founder and CEO
SolitAir

“We appeal to businesses seeking logistics solutions to drive their success in global marketplace.”

22,000 square meters facility at Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai South, SolitAir is equipped to handle a wide range of cargo, including e-commerce, pharmaceuticals, perishables, dan-



gerous goods, vulnerable goods, oversized cargo and high-value shipments.

The hub's strategic location and advanced infrastructure combined with SolitAir's dedicated team and the company's agile middle-mile model ensures delivery within 12 to 24 hours, meeting the speed-to-market needs of freight forwarders, integrator airlines, and SMEs, while seamlessly handling any time-sensitive and complex freight.

“With a relentless focus on customer satisfaction and innovation, SolitAir appeals to businesses seeking reliable and efficient logistics solutions to drive their success in today's global marketplace, especially as the Global South starts playing a leading role in the world economy,” Hamdi Osman, Founder and CEO, SolitAir, said. Os-

2025 WHAT TO EXPECT

23 tonnes
CARGO CAPACITY

22,000 sq. mts.
SIZE OF SOLITAIR'S FACILITY

50 cities
SOLITAIR'S PLANS

12 million tonnes
ANNUAL CARGO CAPACITY-DWC

man is also the former SVP, Europe, Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Africa, FedEx Express. “Right at the heart of this fast-emerging region accounting for over half of the global GDP, DWC is set to become the world's largest airport with an annual cargo capacity of 12 million tonnes, 20 times more than it can currently handle,” Osman added.



QR Cargo forges partnerships to meet demand for logistics

Qatar Airways Cargo (QR Cargo) recently strengthened partnerships to meet the growing logistics demand, leveraging their complementary strengths. The objective of collaboration is to deliver faster, efficient global logistics solutions, reinforcing carrier’s pivotal role in advancing global trade, says **Mark Drusch, Chief Officer Cargo**.

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QR Cargo has announced to reach partnerships to meet the surging demand for efficient global logistics and e-commerce solutions. The carrier and Cainiao have strengthened their existing partnership to support the cross-border e-commerce logistics. By uniting QR Cargo’s extensive global reach with Cainiao’s e-commerce and technological expertise, the collaboration aims to deliver faster, smarter, and more reliable logistics solutions.

“Since our collaboration with Cainiao in 2021, it was driven by ongoing flying pacts and a shared vision to support e-commerce. We are deepening our ties with Cainiao to work together. By utilising the QR Cargo hub at Hamad International Airport, Doha, we aim to expedite shipments to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, reinforcing our commitment to Cainiao,” Mark Drusch, Chief Officer Cargo, Qatar Airways Cargo, said.

For Cainiao, the partnership aligns with its mission of building a future-proof lo-



Mark Drusch
Chief Officer Cargo
Qatar Airways Cargo

gistics network. “At Cainiao, we will build a smart, fool-proof logistics network for e-commerce. We are pleased to fortify our partnership with quality players such as QR Cargo to build a robust global express network and better support our global customers with faster deliveries and enhanced supply chain effi-

ciency,” Wan Lin, CEO, Cainiao, averred. This collaboration underscores QR Cargo’s strategic use of its extensive network and infrastructure to provide seamless logistics solutions, enabling businesses to meet customer expectations in an interconnected world.

COLLABORATION WITH JAL

In addition to its partnership with Cainiao, QR Cargo has also bolstered its relationship with Japan Airlines (JAL). The agreement aims to enhance cargo services, creating synergies between the two world alliance members.

Earlier this year, JAL launched daily passenger flights between Tokyo airport and Doha airport. The latest agreement marks a step in expanding the cooperation between QR Cargo

and JALCARGO, focusing on streamlined transfers and optimised networks. From

“ We are deepening our ties with Cainiao. By utilising our hub, we will send shipments to Europe, Africa.”

2025, the partnership will take a leap forward with freighter services between Doha and Narita Airport in Tokyo. This will fortify trade and create economic value by linking regions served by the two airlines. “This agreement will strengthen the partnership between JAL and QR Cargo. We have started the operation of our own freighters. Through this pact, JAL-CARGO will leverage Japanese passenger flights, freighter network, and the newly expanded QR Cargo network to deliver air cargo to a broader range of destinations.”

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The collaboration between QR Cargo and JALCARGO has yielded results, with 4,462 tonnes of import and export cargo transacted in Japan last year. This figure is likely to grow as the partnership evolves, underscoring the economic impact of their efforts to streamline logistics and trade between regions. The collaboration with Cainiao, combined with the deepening ties with Japan Airlines, highlights its role as a key enabler of global trade and e-commerce growth.

Insights

- QR Cargo partners with Cainiao to meet global logistics demand
- QR Cargo and Japan Airlines expand partnership to optimise cargo flow

Impacts

- Enhanced cross-border e-commerce logistics with QR Cargo and Cainiao
- QR Cargo’s collaborations bolster global express logistics capabilities



Agility vital for Qatar's air cargo and logistics sector

Agility has become essential in today's logistics sector, with adaptability being key to overcoming both challenges and opportunities. **Sheikh Abdullah bin Fahad bin Jassim bin Jaber al-Thani, Managing Director, GWC Group**, highlights how resilience and innovation are crucial for Qatar's evolving air cargo and logistics sectors.

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“Agility is becoming increasingly critical, with the significant lesson from recent years being the importance of resilience in the face of positive as well as negative challenges. As Qatar continues its drive



Sheikh Abdullah bin Fahad bin Jassim bin Jaber al-Thani
Managing Director, GWC Group

for a sustainable and diversified economy, the logistics and transportation sector must actively contribute to this transformation,” Sheikh Abdullah bin Fahad bin Jassim bin Jaber al-Thani, Managing



Director, GWC Group highlighted in a recent address on the significance of the agility in the logistics sector.

“For instance, the pandemic triggered sudden disruptions in supply chains, impacting the logistics sector. Hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 had catalysed a positive transformation in Qatar's logistics landscape

“**The sector is transforming rapidly, driven by digitalisation and need to minimise environmental impact.**”

through innovative solutions. The sector requires agile supply chains capable of withstanding future disruptions. This ability to adapt is particularly vital for Qatar as we expand our partnerships and explore new markets,” he added.

Logistics is key to building a competitive, resilient economy, aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030.

“In Qatar, logistics services play an important role, extending beyond the transportation of goods from one point to another to include bolstering trade flows, supporting sustainable develop-

ment goals, and driving economic diversification,” Jaber al-Thani said.

“Today, the logistics sector is transforming rapidly driven by digitalisation, the growing demand for sustainability, and the urgent need in order to minimise environmental impact. How we navigate these trends will define the future of logistics in Qatar,” Sheikh Abdullah said.



Emirates SkyCargo introduces eQuote for seamless booking

Emirates SkyCargo has advanced its digital landscape for cargo operations by launching eQuote. Empowering customers with real-time data and information for a seamless booking experience, the launch marks a milestone on the airline's long-standing digitisation strategy, aiming to streamline operations and drive greater efficiencies.

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Available on e-SkyCargo, eQuote acts as a digital 'self-service' touchpoint, enabling requests and managing spot quotations round-the-clock. The solution will be rolled out globally and incorporate majority of

tools is essential, as customers become accustomed to a swift and seamless experience, empowered with real-time data to streamline their daily operations. The launch of eQuote is a natural enhancement to our digital offering," Matthew Scott, Vice President, Pricing and Interline, Emirates SkyCargo, said.

EMBRACING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

The cargo division's digitalisation strategy prioritises innovation that demonstrable results, not just for customers but for internal teams too. Emirates SkyCargo has been successfully integrating digital solutions into its operations, unlocking incremental value and optimising processes for a seamless journey. Across its vast global network, Emirates SkyCargo has seen an uptick in digital adoption—now accounting for more than 60 per cent of all bookings. General cargo remains the number one commodity booked digitally, followed by perishable and pharma shipments, indicating the maturity of the digital landscape given the complex requirements for temperature-sensitive freight.

DIGITAL MARKETPLACES

In response to this growing demand, Emirates SkyCargo established its presence on

three of the biggest digital marketplaces, along with the leading Transport Management Systems, frequently used by freight forwarders worldwide—WebCargo, cargo.one, CargoAi and CargoWise, among others. This means that Emirates SkyCargo offers an array of benefits, including direct access to make bookings, visibility on schedules, tariff and contract rates, along with real-time access to available capacity, enabling immediate bookings 24x7.

At launch of eQuote platform, the carrier made five core products available on digital marketplaces, allowing transport of perishables, general cargo and urgent shipments. This has now been expanded to specialty products, including pharma. The carrier increased the weight break limitation to three tonnes, allowing more shipments to be booked digitally. Building on early results by air freight aggregators, Emirates SkyCargo worked with Kuehne+Nagel and DB Schenker to initiate direct host-to-host connections, building the airline's available capacity, schedules and rates into these customers' internal booking engines. Emirates SkyCargo has witnessed productivity and an increase in manpower efficiency across the board. By reducing manual work for small ship-

ments, the carrier's team of experts prioritise complex bookings requiring closer follow up, such as shipments booked through Emirates Val-

eQuote will be rolled out globally and incorporate products such as sensitive shipments

products, including sensitive shipments such as the Life Sciences and Healthcare portfolio and high-value transfers such as Emirates Wheels. eQuote provides a higher level of choice, control and flexibility for customers to access the airline's world-class products and services.

"Accelerating digital transformation is key of our roadmap, which will ensure we remain one of the leading partners for the world's rapidly evolving supply chains. Integrating reliable digital

**2025
IN A NUTSHELL**

60%
DIGITAL BOOKINGS

3 tonnes
WEIGHT BREAK LIMITATION

5
CORE PRODUCTS

3
DIGITAL MARKETPLACES

ables or Emirates Pets. Sales agents have access to provide a personalised service, elevating Emirates SkyCargo's market-leading capabilities.

DIGITAL TOUCHPOINTS

The cargo carrier has completed a full refresh of its owned digital channels, including e-SkyCargo and SkyCargo.com, enriching the existing websites to be useful for the stakeholders. e-SkyCargo, the airline's registered user portal, has been simplified to enhance the user experience with evolved functionality that prioritises usability. 🌟



AI optimises routes and reduces carbon emissions in freight

Logistics and air freight are on edge of transformation, driven by power of AI. Potential for advanced technology ranges from streamlining operations with real-time tracking, automated anomaly detection, optimising routes, and reducing CO₂ emissions, says **Rumman Chowdhury, USA Science Envoy and CEO and Co-founder, Human Intelligence.**

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AI is transforming logistics and air freight into efficient, and sustainable sectors. AI's ability to identify anomalies—missing shipment or a deviation caused by unexpected events such as accidents or weather disruptions—brings a new level of efficiency and control to logistics operations. AI can even alert operators immediately, enabling swift corrective action, thereby reducing costly delays and improving overall productivity.

The integration of AI in logistics sector starts with digitisation. Coupled with RFID and Internet of Things (IoT) technology, AI facilitates real-time tracking of goods. AI-powered logistics promise optimised



Rumman Chowdhury
USA Science Envoy and CEO and
Co-founder, Human Intelligence

routes, reduced carbon footprints, and data-driven strategies for greener shipping practices.

“There is an amazing use of confluence of technologies in logistics, such as RFID technology, radio frequency. It is these little identification tags that can go on goods, and

products being shipped, so that they could get scanned automatically. Rather than human scanning or the traditional documentation, it would all be digitised,” Rumman Chowdhury, USA Science Envoy and CEO and Co-founder, Human Intelligence, said.

AI's capabilities extend beyond data analysis; they also optimise predictive processes in logistics. By analysing vast datasets—often involving billions of variables—AI systems can forecast future trends, from demand fluctuations to potential disruptions. This predictive capability is a game changer for the logistics industry, allowing firms to plan better, reduce waste, and make informed decisions to enhance supply chain resilience. “It is about moving things faster and efficiently. Absolutely. AI is fundamentally a productivity improver, which creates a streamlined, transparent, and robust supply chain ecosystem,” Chowdhury said.

The next five years promise a future where logistics professionals are less burdened and more empowered, leveraging AI to craft resilient and responsive supply chains catering to evolving global demands. The challenge lies in using AI responsibly, with a vision focused not on fear but progress. “What we need is an ecosystem. We need the cameras to be able to scan the RFID tag. We need AI to be able to collect and collate that information. For example, if something goes missing or any kind of disruption, AI will help people take corrective action,” Chowdhury said.

Automating processes frees up resources, enabling companies to focus on more strategic initiatives—from customer service to long-term planning. However, she said, “AI will never replace humans. The ability of AI to gather data and retrain itself is because we make the API links and create databases that are easy

“**The predictive capability is a game changer for logistics. AI systems can forecast future trends.**”

to access. There is a lot of human labour going into building these systems. AI cannot respond to new situations in ways the humans can,” Chowdhury said. Instead, it will serve as a tool that amplifies human decision-making, helping logistics experts handle the complexities of an increasingly interconnected world. 🌐



Sustainability & logistics challenges in Middle East

Sustainability in supply chains is a growing global concern, with challenges in the Middle East. Key industry leaders discuss how resilience, green practices, and circular systems are essential for a sustainable supply chain. **CARGO talk** explores the barriers, technological innovations, policies, and future actions shaping sustainable logistics in the Gulf.

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As the world grapples with the need for sustainable practices, the Gulf region faces unique challenges in achieving a sustainable supply chain. In a recent

Sustainability is a global challenge, and the Middle East has pressing need in achieving a sustainable supply chain

In a panel discussion, experts from the private and public sectors shared insights into the hurdles and opportunities sur-

rounding sustainable supply chains in the Middle East.

Sustainability is a global challenge, and the Middle East has pressing need in achieving a sustainable supply chain. In a recent discussion at Logi-motion, Ibrahim Al-Dali, Supply Chain Head, Al-Yamama Holding Company, commented, "I believe for a supply chain to be sustainable, there are three main components that need to be considered—the resilient supply chain, the green supply chain and the circular supply chain. These must align with the pillars of sustainability: environmental, social, and governance (ESG)."

"Regarding barriers, there are several—sustainability is not universally mandated. While global goals such as zero emissions by 2050 ex-



Ibrahim Al-Dali
Supply Chain Head, Al-Yamama Holding Company



Mohammed Hussain Al Busaleh
Director of Emergency & Crisis Management, Ministry of Municipalities and Housing, KSA

“Sustainability is no longer optional. It is a mindset and a culture that is ingrained in business strategy.”

“PPP is a proven success model for fostering innovation and implementing technology.”





Technology must be compatible with existing infrastructure. Many bizs do not utilise tools such as ERP systems

ist, local enforcement is limited. The lack of sustainable materials and services in the region hampers progress. Sustainability often involves high upfront investments. For businesses to embrace it, there must be long-term returns that benefit both the environment and stakeholders.”

TECHNOLOGY IN LOGISTICS

“Adaptive policy is crucial for achieving sustainability. PPP is a success model for fostering innovation and implementing technology to enhance supply chains. For example, real-time data and AI-driven analytics are altering supply chains into more resilient and efficient systems,” Mohammed Husain Al Busaleh, Director of Emergency & Crisis Management, Ministry of Municipalities and Housing, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, said.

However, challenges persist. Technology must be compatible with existing infrastructure, and many busi-

nesses underutilise available tools such as the ERP systems. For technology to succeed, customisation and staff training are essential. Moreover, “we must view advanced technology as a complementary tool—not as a replacement for human expertise,” he added.

Digital twins and Artificial Intelligence-powered decision-making will transform supply chain efficiency. This equipment will reduce manpower requirements and enhance real-time management. For example, the smart grid of California demonstrates how green technologies can optimise energy use, setting a benchmark for innovation,” he added.

POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Policy frameworks emerged as a linchpin for sustainable logistics. “If you can’t measure it, you cannot improve it,” Al-Dali emphasised. He praised the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 for incorporating sustainability into urban design and governance and stressed the need for more targeted initiatives. Al Busaleh underscored the role of adaptive policies, particularly through public private partnership models. “Our approach has been to align local initiatives with global sustainability goals, while tailoring them to regional needs. Agility and resilience are key to mitigating disruptions,” he said.

FUTURE CALL FOR ACTION

What does the future hold for sustainable logistics in the Gulf? Al Dali said, “Partnerships between govts and private sectors will drive sustainable development. Initiatives

Policy frameworks emerged as a linchpin in the field of sustainable logistics

such as vertical farming, green urban design, and mandatory sustainability needs will embed sustainability into daily business practices.

Ultimately, sustainability is not just a compliance issue, it is a mindset and a culture. Sustainability is no longer optional. It is a mindset and a culture that must be ingrained in the fabric of business strategy,” he said. The Gulf’s journey towards a sustainable, resilient supply chain is fraught with challenges and full of opportunities. 🌱

Core Ideas

- Sustainable supply chains in the Gulf region face unique challenges, including limited local enforcement and a lack of sustainable materials
- Technology, such as AI and real-time data, is essential for creating resilient, efficient, and sustainable supply chains

Goals

- The goal is to align supply chains with sustainability pillars: Environmental, social, and governance
- A key goal is to embed sustainability into business strategies through partnerships, innovation, and adaptive policies, ensuring long-term positive environmental and societal impacts



Upcoming Events

EVENT NAME	DATE	VENUE
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JANUARY

Kuwait Aviation Show	15-18	Jaleeb Al Shuyoukh, Kuwait
Mersin Logistics & Transportation Fair	16-18	Mersin, Turkey
INTRALOGISTICA Poland Expo	22-24	Pruszków, Poland
Smart Logistics Expo	22-24	Koto, Japan
World Cargo Summit 2025	27-29	Belgium
Logistics Tech Summit	30-31	Berlin, Germany

FEBRUARY

CONNECT Aviation Forum	3-5	Girona, Spain
Supply Chain and Logistics Summit ME	4-5	Dubai, UAE
Logistics and Supply Chain Forum	5-7	Helsinki, Finland
Breakbulk Middle East	10-11	Dubai, UAE
Sustainable Aviation Futures MENA Congress 2025	10-12	Dubai, UAE
Future Warehouse & Logistics	10-13	Dubai, UAE
Manifest: The Future of Supply Chain & Logistics 2025	10-12	Las Vegas, USA
Annual National Logistics Forum	11-13	Orlando, USA
Warehouse & Logistics Asia	12-15	Bangkok, Thailand
Air Cargo Africa	19-21	Nairobi, Kenya
WCA Worldwide Conference 2025	25 Feb-1 March	Dubai, UAE

MARCH

Air Cargo Conference	2-4	Dallas, Texas
China International Smart Logistics and Storage Exhibition	7-9	Shanghai, China
Mega Cargo Show	11-12	Mumbai, India
LogiMAT 2025	11-13	Stuttgart, Germany

EVENT NAME	DATE	VENUE
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Automotive Logistics and Supply Chain Europe	18-20	Bonn, Germany
Smart Mobility India Expo	19-21	New Delhi, India
IntraLogisteX 2025	25-26	Birmingham, UK
Expo Logistica Panama	25-27	Panama City, Panama
Routes Asia	25-27	Perth, Australia

APRIL

Logistics World Summit & Expo	2-3	Mexico
Global Supply Chain & Logistics Summit (SCLG Summit)	2-4	Amsterdam, Netherlands
Supply Chain and Logistics Summit	9-11	Las Vegas, USA
Brazil Supply Chain, Logistics & Procurement Summit	11	São Paulo, Brazil
World Cargo Symposium-Dubai, UAE	15-17	Dubai, UAE

MAY

Sustainable Aviation Futures EU Congress	6-8	Amsterdam, Netherlands
Saudi Smart Logistics 2025	12-15	Riyadh, KSA
Gartner Supply Chain Symposium	19-21	Barcelona, Spain

JUNE

Supply Chain and Logistics Summit 2025	1	Barcelona, Spain
Transport Logistic 2025	2-5	Munich, Germany
Air Cargo Europe 2025	2-5	Munich, Germany
Supply Chain Technology Conference & Expo 2025	3-4	San Francisco, USA
Supply Chain Innovation Summit 2025	18-19	Paris, France

JULY

ASEAN Ports and Logistics 2025	1-3	Jakarta, Indonesia
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2025

EVENT NAME	DATE	VENUE
Logistics Automation Expo 2025	2-4	Bitec, Bangkok
International Conference on Global Supply Chain and Logistics Management	15-16	Bali, Indonesia
International Conference on Tourism, Transport, and Logistics	18	Los Angeles, USA

AUGUST

International Conference on Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management	13	Mombasa, Kenya
World Conference on Supply Chain Management and Business	14	Al Jahra, Kuwait
TILOG-LogistiX	20- 22	Bangkok, Thailand
Global Procurement, Supply Chain, AI & Logistics Summit Expo	27-29	Grapevine, USA

SEPTEMBER

Saudi Warehousing & Logistics Expo	1-3	Riyadh, KSA
Transport Middle East 2025	8-10	Salalah, Oman
International Supply Chain & Logistics Summit (ISCLS)	17-18	New Delhi, India
China International Logistics and Supply Chain Fair	24-26	Shenzhen, China
Routes World	24-26	Hong Kong
World Freight Summit	Sept, TBC	USA
Advanced Air Mobility Expo	30 Sept-1 Oct	London, UK

OCTOBER

FIATA World Congress: Green and Resilient Logistics	6-10	Hanoi, Vietnam
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EVENT NAME	DATE	VENUE
Logistics Summit	8-9	Dusseldorf
Scotland Supply Chain & Logistics Conference	15-16	Glasgow, UK
Supply Chain & Logistics	18-20	Athens, Greece
Air Cargo Southeast Asia	29-31	Singapore

NOVEMBER

Logistica 2025	1	Utrecht, Netherlands
TIACA Air Cargo Forum	4-6	Abu Dhabi, UAE
International Transport & Logistics Exhibition	4-6	Warsaw, Poland
Supply Chain Innovation & Technology Forum 2025	10-12	Dubai, UAE
Dubai Airshow	17- 21	Dubai, UAE
International Transport Logistics Exhibition	19-21	Istanbul, Turkey
WAM Saudi 2025-World Advanced Manufacturing & Logistics Summit & Expo	24-26	Riyadh, KSA
Arabian Cargo Awards	Nov, TBC	Dubai, UAE
Arabian Travel Awards	Nov, TBC	Dubai, UAE

DECEMBER

Supply Chain and Logistics Transformation Summit	3-5	Munich, Germany
India Cargo Awards, North & East	Dec, TBC	New Delhi, India
India Cargo Awards, West & South	Dec, TBC	Mumbai, India
India Travel Award, North & East	Dec, TBC	New Delhi, India
India Travel Award, West & South	Dec, TBC	Mumbai, India

For more information contact:

talk@ddppl.com

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



Luis Felipe de Oliveira, former Director General and CEO, Airports Council International, ACI World, Canada; Tatiana Rey-Bellet, Director, TIR & Transit Services, IRU, Switzerland and Nadia Abdul Aziz, President, National Association for Freight and Logistics, UAE

Harnessing multimodal synergies for resilient logistics

Logistics sector is poised not only to meet the challenges of an interconnected world but also to drive its progress. A recent panel discussion in Dubai brought together global experts to explore multimodal collaboration, regional infrastructure integration, and advanced systems for cross-border operations.

CT Bureau

The logistics and supply chain sector faces unprecedented challenges from geopolitical disruptions to rising customer expectations. Insights from industry leaders emphasise the transformative role of multimodal collaboration, regional initiatives, and cutting-edge solutions such as TIR and high-speed rail. As the UAE exemplifies its infrastructure advancements, building resilience demands seamless integration, innovation, and coordinated action.

MULTIMODAL COLLABORATION

“Businesses today cannot rely solely on one service provider or transport mode,” Tatiana Rey-Bellet, Director, TIR & Transit Services, IRU, Swit-



zerland, said. Her insights reflected the sector’s urgent need for diversification and redundancy. She illustrated her point with an example from the GCC region. “A crisis in the Red Sea disrupted shipping routes,” she explained.

“The firms adopted a multimodal approach: Cargo from China or India arrived at Jebel Ali via maritime transport, switched to land transport by truck, and then returned to maritime transport at another port.” This strategy not only

mitigated risks, but also ensured predictability for time-sensitive goods.

“Trucks, loading schedules, and vessel arrivals all had to align seamlessly,” Rey-Ballet said, highlighting the



customs security or state revenue. “Efficient cross-border transport depends on balancing security and facilitation. In regions like the EU, where borders are harmonised, crossing the borders still takes time. The challenge is greater where customs borders exist. The TIR system, established

Globally, 27% of the UAE’s economy relies on travel and tourism, a sector likely to double by 2042

— Luis Felipe de Oliveira

significant role of coordination, stating, This synchronisation is not just operationally essential, but crucial to maintaining customer trust in an unpredictable environment, she added.

INTERMODAL LINKAGE IN UAE

Nadia Abdul Aziz, President, National Association for Freight and Logistics, provided a regional perspective, spotlighting the UAE as a logistics hub. “The UAE is a hub because we have invest-

In EU, where borders are harmonised, crossing the borders takes time. Challenge is greater

— Tatiana Rey-Bellet

ed heavily in infrastructure, soft as well as hard,” she said. “This multimodal integration strengthens the region’s connectivity. However, challenges such as border customs remain. Tools like TIR, single-window systems, and FTAs help, but unified customs co-operation within the GCC is essential,” she added.

Multimodal integration strengthens the region’s connectivity, but, challenges such as border customs remain

— Nadia Abdul Aziz

“The UAE has launched projects such as the Jebel Ali Rail Direct—a partnership between Etihad Rail and DHL. This connects northern emirates to Abu Dhabi and beyond, laying the groundwork for GCC-wide rail link by 2029-2030. Such initiatives will revolutionise cargo movement across the region,” Aziz said, emphasising multimodal integration strengthens the UAE’s role in global supply chains.

MULTIMODAL FREIGHT BY RAIL

Expanding the discussion beyond freight, Luis Felipe de Oliveira, former Director General and CEO, Airports Council International, ACI World, Canada, said, “High-speed rail is transformative, especially when integrated with airports and ports. Glob-

ally, 27 per cent of the UAE’s economy relies on travel and tourism, an industry likely to double by 2042.

Efficient connectivity, express trains linking airports to urban centers, reduces travel time, carbon emissions, and costs. For example, in Europe, airport express trains simplify travel, making it seamless and cost-effective.” As the UAE cities grow, integrating rail with airports will improve sustainability and passenger convenience, Oliveira said.

CROSS-BORDER EFFICIENCY

Rey-Bellet turned to the pressing issue of cross-border transport. Highlighting the TIR system, Rey-Bellet underscored its ability to streamline border crossings without compromising

in 1949, offers a model for balancing customs security and trade facilitation, ensuring secure cargo entry sans compromising state revenue. Using such systems globally could streamline border crossings, reduce delays, and foster trade integration,” she said, pointing to a model for future growth in cross-border logistics.

Whether through multimodal synergies in the GCC nations, infrastructure projects in the UAE, or international innovations such as high-speed rail and TIR, logistics evolve rapidly. Logistics industry must incorporate multimodal connectivity through innovation, coordination, and resilience to meet the demands of an interconnected world.

Key trends

- Businesses are increasingly adopting a multimodal approach to mitigate risks, ensuring cargo is transported efficiently
- The UAE’s investment in multimodal integration, including projects like the Jebel Ali Rail Direct promotes enhanced connectivity across the GCC region

Innovations

- High-speed rail systems, particularly those linking airports and urban centres, improve efficiency, reduce travel time, and support sustainability by cutting emissions
- Goal is to embed sustainability into biz strategies ensuring long-term environmental and societal impacts



His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, DP World Group Chairman & CEO and Chairman of PCFC, His Excellency Nasser Al Neyadi, CEO, PCFC, His Excellency Dr. Abdulla Busenad, Director General, Dubai Customs and His Excellency Abdullah bin Zayed Al Falasi, Director General, Dubai Government Human Resources Department at the launch of Dubai Logistics Academy

Logistics academy strengthens Dubai's global trade role

Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation hosted an event to open Dubai Logistics Academy, an innovative educational institution for Dubai Customs. It included an award ceremony to acknowledge key partners, including logistics firms and Dubai University, says His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, CEO and Chairman, PCFC

CT Bureau

Emphasising that the logistics sector is a crucial driver of economic growth requiring a wealth of professional expertise to foster its expansion, His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, CEO and Chairman of PCFC and Group Chairman,

The academy will strengthen global trade and solidify Dubai's essential role in connecting economies around the world

DP World, said, "The academy will play a key role in training professionals in the ports, logistics, and commercial services firms. It will go a long way in strengthening global trade and solidifying Dubai's essential role in connecting economies around the world."

In his address, His Excellency Nasser Al Neyadi, Chief Executive Officer, PCFC, explained, "The launch of the academy is in line with the transformation of the government work, especially as we move into the digital era and increasingly adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI) in government services. This paradigm shift requires improving employee skills to meet the demands of evolving global trade, investment, and logistics services."

DUBAI'S ECONOMIC VISION

His Excellency Dr. Abdulla Busenad, Director General, Dubai Customs, said the academy will contribute to nurturing and developing talent through an innovative academic and professional approach for citizens and residents. This initiative, launched by Dubai Customs as part of the '33 Path', includes specialised curricula and accredited scholarships, supporting the objectives of Dubai's Economic Agenda.

Global data and trends in the global economy underline the continuous growth of the logistics sector, requiring a forward-thinking vision and groundbreaking initiatives to keep pace with this rapid development. The academy's initiatives aim

not only to stimulate investment but also to serve as cornerstone for fostering a knowledge-based national economy and solidifying Dubai's position as a leading global hub in this vital sector.

SUPPORTING EMIRATISATION

His Excellency Abdullah bin Zayed Al Falasi, Director General, Dubai Government Human Resources Department congratulated the Dubai Customs on its initiatives. He further said that the logistics academy will play an important role in supporting emiratization by training, qualifying, and investing in local talent and described the launch as a significant step in enhancing the capabilities of the logistics industry. 🇦🇪

ROSHN Group forges partnerships to fortify Saudi supply chains

ROSHN Group signed partnerships to enhance supply chain resilience in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. By collaborating with international and local suppliers, group is driving economic growth by boosting logistics and manufacturing, in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 goals, says **Iain McBride, Executive Director, Commercial**.

CT Bureau

ROSHN Group held its second Supply Chain Forum, which gathered 400 suppliers to discuss local content initiatives and capacity building within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As part of Kingdom's Vision 2030, ROSHN is collaborating with international and local suppliers in order to enhance supply chains, create employment, and drive the KSA's economic growth.

The event, which was held in Riyadh, highlighted the group's strategic approach to foster local businesses, working with in-



Iain McBride
Executive Director, Commercial
ROSHN Group

ternational suppliers to establish manufacturing facilities in KSA, bringing production. This shift towards local production aligns with ROSHN's broader goal to

create resilient and sustainable supply chains.

"We want to bring our suppliers to the Kingdom and show them the opportuni-

“ We want to bring our suppliers to KSA and show them opportunities to set up various facilities.”

ties to establish facilities and manufacturing. ROSHN's Supply Chain Forum brought

together several hundred of our partners to showcase how we can do more to build local capacity and explore collaborations on building capacity here," Iain McBride, Executive Director, Commercial, ROSHN Group, said.

"The signing of these Memoranda of Understanding underline our determination to contribute to the Kingdom's economic growth and diversification through our local content strategy," he added.

During the Supply Chain Forum, ROSHN signed several MoUs with important partners to further its mission. Companies such as VIMAR, AE7, Foshan Homonisia, and Bton International are committed to setting up operations and production facilities in the Kingdom.

These partnerships will assist in localising the production of building materials and explore sustainable construction solutions, such as low-carbon concrete. 🏗️



Leaders gather at **Logimotion** to address logistics challenges

Logimotion, an event for logistics, supply chain, and mobility sectors, concluded recently. Global leaders shared insights on challenges and opportunities in building resilient logistics and supply chain in Middle East. “The sessions showed our assurance to address challenges in logistics, mobility and supply chain,” says **Dishan Isaac, Exhibition Director**.











Logimotion seeks sustainable supply chain solutions in Gulf

Challenges and opportunities involved in building sustainable supply chains in the Gulf region were addressed at inaugural edition of Logimotion. Industry leaders at the event for logistics, supply chain and mobility sectors underscored importance of integrating technologies to achieve sustainable supply chains.

CT Bureau

The inaugural edition of Logimotion aims to become an important industry platform for collaboration, innovation, and progress toward a more sustainable future and the inaugural edition has certainly set the industry on the right track.

The session titled ‘Discussing the Strategies for Overcoming Barriers to Sustainable Supply Chains in the Gulf Region’ was led by Ibrahim Al-Dali, Supply Chain Head, Al-Yamama Holding Company, and Mohammed Hussain Al Busaleh, Director, Emergency & Crisis Management, Ministry of Municipalities and Housing (KSA). Offering different experiences across policymaking and logistics



operations, the panellists underlined the importance

of integrating technologies to achieve sustainable supply chains. They agreed collaboration between the government and private sector was key to achieving the industry’s sustainability goals. Financial barriers to investing in eco-friendly supply chain infrastructure were also addressed.

data utilising IoT to manage supply chain activities and make smarter decisions is what is going to provide long-term efficiencies. Even though AI is not 100 per cent across the supply chain, it is being leveraged across the globe and has proved to be a reliable approach for improving the resilience of the supply chain,” he commented.

Al Busaleh highlighted the importance of emerging technology in achieving sustainable supply chains. “Real-time

“Technology can never replace humans. In fact, I be-

Highlights

- Logimotion aims to foster collaboration and innovation for sustainability
- Logimotion conferences address crucial topics in logistics, mobility, and supply chains

Impacts

- Advanced technologies require skilled human management for sustainability
- IoT and AI enhance supply chain resilience and long-term efficiency



lieve AI, IoT, ML and other advanced technologies will need the industry to employ more people to manage them. I believe for a supply chain to be sustainable, there are three main components that need to be considered—the resilient supply chain, the green supply chain and the circular supply chain. There needs to be a long-term investment in sustainability for the industry to achieve its goals,” he added.

The session took place at SCALEX, one of three main-stage conferences at Logimotion, which explores the technologies explored the supply chain and logistics sector forward. Sustainability strategies have been a significant topic at SCALEX, with discussions led by industry leaders, government officials and policymakers. The Global Trade and Infrastructure Summit has showcased insights from a plethora of speakers this week,

Financial barriers to investing in eco-friendly supply chain infrastructure were also addressed

including His Excellency Dr Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, Head, Cybersecurity, UAE Government. His Excellency Dr Al Kuwaiti outlined the UAE’s leadership in international cybersecurity, and Luc Vincent, Chief Product and Technology Officer, Foothill Ventures who discussed the role of AI and automation in transforming urban logistics.

The TransMobility Forum has addressed different topics, including advancements in

autonomous vehicles, smart city integration and sustainable urban mobility. Speakers at the conference included Andres de Leon, Chief Executive Officer, Hyper loop TT; Martin Ausserdorfer, CEO, Railtraction Company; and Steven Velegrinis, Design Director, Regional Lead Cities and Urban Design, Gensler.

“The diverse range of the conference sessions at the

recent Logimotion demonstrate the event’s commitment to driving meaningful conversations that address pressing challenges in the logistics, mobility and supply chain sectors,” Dishan Isaac, Exhibition Director, Logimotion, concluded. The government partners Logimotion included Cyber Security Council, Dubai Economy and Tourism, and KSA Ministry of Municipalities and Housing. 🇦🇪



dnata Logistics to open **new** warehouse in Dubai South

dnata Logistics has broken ground on new, 57,000m² warehouse in Dubai South, largest single-urban master development focusing on aviation, logistics and real estate. Advanced warehouse will enhance Dubai’s position as premium global logistics hub with an investment of AED 100 million. Warehouse has been designed with focus on sustainability.

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Located near Dubai World Central-Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC), dnata Logistics’ expansion will contribute to the growth and success of the emirate as a key international logistics hub. Capable of processing 400,000 tonnes of cargo annually, it will increase dnata Logistics’ storage capacity by 50 per cent and create over 50 new and direct jobs with the company.

The facility will be equipped with the latest technologies, including automated systems for cargo storage and retrieval, and truck loading and offloading. An AI-driven warehouse management system will be implemented, delivering superior efficiency and value for partners. The facility, representing an investment of AED 100 million (US\$ 27 million), will provide a major boost to the company’s

operational capabilities amid rising demand for cargo and logistics services in the region.

In line with dnata’s global sustainability strategy, the warehouse has been designed with focus on environmental efficiency. It will feature solar panels, rainwater and energy harvesting systems, as well as smart heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. The facility is expected to achieve the global Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification one year after operations begins.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by His Excellency Khalifa Al Zaffin, Executive Chairman, Dubai Aviation City Corporation and Dubai South, and Steve Allen, CEO, dnata. Construction of the warehouse is underway, with completion scheduled for November 2025. Including its newest facility, dnata

2025
KEY INDICATORS

400,000 tonnes
ANNUAL CARGO PROCESSING

50%
STORAGE CAPACITY INCREASE

AED 100 million
INVESTMENT


11 locations
GLOBAL PRESENCE

Logistics will offer world-class services from 11 locations in the UAE.

“We are thrilled to break ground on this new facility, representing a pivotal investment in our future growth. As we expand our product offerings, the facility’s features will help us grow responsibly, making an impact on the communities we serve. Our commitment to sustainability is

central to this project. From energy efficiency to waste reduction, every aspect of the warehouse has been designed with environmental efficiency in mind,” Sean Bradley, Managing Director, dnata Logistics, said.

“We are pleased to witness the break ground of dnata’s innovative facility, which will add value to the thriving Dubai South area. We are committed to supporting dnata’s growth with this new facility as part of an integrated ecosystem, and we remain dedicated to fortifying Dubai’s position as global logistics hub,” Mohsen Ahmad, CEO, Logistics District at Dubai South, said.

The groundbreaking of the new facility follows investments in infrastructure to meet evolving market needs. Key highlights in recent years include the acquisition of a new warehouse facility at DWC, he added. 

How AI-powered robotics are transforming warehouse ops

Fully autonomous warehouses are almost a reality. By 2025, four million robots will manage tasks like sorting, picking, packing and transporting goods across 50,000 warehouses worldwide. Alexei Filippov, Head, Global Business Development, Yango Robotics stated **CARGO talk** about this transformation.

CT Bureau

The demand for robotic solutions is intensifying in industries such as e-commerce, where demand is projected to exceed US\$ 57 billion by 2026. Robotic arms, mobile robots, and automated guided vehicles (AGVs) are being employed to handle tasks such as sorting, picking, and fulfilment.

“Robots are expected to handle up to 50 per cent of e-commerce orders by 2025, meeting demands for faster deliveries. For instance, Yango Robotics’ Inventory Tracking Robots can inventory a 20,000 m² warehouse in one to two hours, outperforming manual methods that take weeks, reducing errors and costs,” Alexei Filippov, Head, Global Business Development, Yango Robotics, said.

KEY TRENDS

The future of robotics in warehouses is driven by AI-powered automation, expected to generate US\$ 550 million in the UAE logistics market



Alexei Filippov
Head of Global Business Development, Yango Robotics

by the year 2026. Advances in AI and Machine Learning (ML) will enable the robots to handle complicated tasks and make smarter autonomous decisions. With rising demand and limited warehouse space, those companies in the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are adopting smarter

robots to maximise storage and efficiency. Advances in AI and IoT integration are shaping connected warehouses, ensuring businesses meet fast order fulfilment demands and remain competitive. Utilising this advanced technology addresses bottlenecks such as loading and unloading inefficiencies and leveraging real-time data collection so that the companies achieve higher throughput. This drives the economic diversification, builds resilience, and aligns with the country’s vision for a smarter future.

AI-DRIVEN SYSTEMS

Automation streamlines tasks such as stock checks, order picking, and sorting, automating repetitive procedures, while improving overall performance. Those com-

“Robots are expected to handle up to 50% of e-commerce orders by 2025, meeting demands for faster deliveries.”

panies, which are adopting AI-powered systems, report up to 15 per cent lower logistics costs, while improving accuracy and speed. These flexible and scalable solutions address challenges such as labour shortages and rising costs thereby enabling the businesses to handle fluctuating demand and cut errors for faster, secure and reliable deliveries. 📦



Autonomous robots pave way for smarter logistics in Dubai

Dubai CommerCity (DCC), free zone dedicated exclusively to digital commerce and JV between DIEZ and Wasl Properties, announced the signing of pact with Aramex and QuikBot Technologies to launch trial run of QuikBot's Autonomous Final-Mile Delivery Platform-as-a-service at DCC, says **Amna Lootah, Board Member**.

CT Bureau

Dubai Robotics and Automation Program, launched by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, the agreement seeks to position Dubai among top 10 cities globally in adopting and developing robotics and automation

Pact outlines cooperation between parties to launch and test autonomous robots' last-mile destinations

technologies in next 10 years. This will enhance efficiency and productivity in service, industrial and logistics sectors, while boosting Dubai's economic competitiveness.

"Dubai CommerCity (DCC) is committed to adopting the latest technological innovations that drive operational efficiency and productivity and enhance the logistics services system in Dubai. The trial run of QuikBot autonomous delivery robots represents a step in this direction, solidifying DCC's position as a leading hub for digital commerce and future technologies. This collaboration supports our vision of providing the ideal platform for compa-



Amna Lootah, Board Member of Dubai CommerCity; Tarek Abu Yaghi, General Manager, Aramex; and Alan Ng, Founder and CEO, QuikBot Technologies, signed the agreement. His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Al Zarooni, Executive Chairman, DIEZ and Chairman, Board of Dubai CommerCity; His Excellency Raziff Aljunied, Consul General of Singapore, and Manosij Ganguli, Group Chief Sustainability Officer, Aramex, witness the signing of the agreement

nies aiming to expand in the region," Amna Lootah, Board Member, DCC, said, commenting on the partnership.

"We are pleased to be cooperating with DCC and QuikBot Technologies to test these advanced autonomous robots in the free zone. We continue with this new collaboration to underscore our commitment to adopting innovative and sustainable solutions and provide the highest levels of delivery services to customers, to their destination," Tarek Abu Yaghi, General Manager, Aramex, said.

"We are thrilled to partner with Aramex to launch the first advanced Autonomous Last-Mile Delivery Platform in Dubai. The DCC, with its modern infrastructure, provides the ideal environment for our solution. We aim to replicate this success in many other cities of the future," Alan Ng, Founder and CEO, QuikBot Technologies, said. The pact outlines the cooperation between the parties to launch and test autonomous

robots' last-mile destination delivery services across DCC facilities. During the trial, DCC will allocate areas for robot parking and charging, integrate them with smart building IoT systems to enable access to lifts and security turnstiles, and promote their adoption among firms within the free zone for last-mile delivery solutions.

Under the MoU, Aramex will leverage its new outlet in DCC to act as a pickup and drop location for QuikBot Technologies to receive packages, while QuikBot Technologies will be providing and operating the autonomous delivery robots, in addition to providing Aramex with a specialised application for managing deliveries, along with technical, engineering, and troubleshooting services.

The DCC offers an innovative digital commerce system, providing competitive advantages and a unique value proposition to support its clients in helping them

grow and further scale their business. Among its offerings are integrated solutions that allow firms to operate easily and efficiently, advisory and consultancy services on sector regulations in the region, integrated logistics solutions, including warehousing and last-mile delivery solutions, integrated digital commerce platform solutions, digital marketing services, and many other support services.

Spanning as many as 2.1 million square feet and developed at a cost of a whopping AED 3.2 billion, DCC features world-class infrastructure, designed to support to new and existing digital trade companies in the Middle East and North Africa region and South Asia, as it provides a selection of modern offices and advanced warehouses. In addition to flexible office spaces and scalable centres, DCC provides a unique ecosystem of e-commerce, logistics and technology services for companies operating in the digital trade sector and other fields. 📍

SATS joins hands with AVILOG in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's logistics sector

Singapore-based SATS has partnered with AVILOG Logistics Services Company to accelerate its presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's (KSA) aviation and logistics market, Isam Majid Al Muhaidib, representative, AVILOG, said. AVILOG will acquire a 49 per cent stake in SATS Saudi Arabia. "Our collaboration with SATS and formation of this new venture will enhance access to advanced logistics solutions, driving efficiency," he added.



AVILOG embodies KSA's growth in logistics innovation and aims

to position the KSA as a global logistics hub.

Hellmann Worldwide integrated Geekplus robots in Dubai e-commerce centre

Hellmann Worldwide Logistics has adopted Geekplus robotics automated storage solutions at its e-commerce centre in Dubai Commerce City, facilitated by AI-RobotX MEA. This initiative aligns with the firm's 2023 launch of a dedicated Innovation Hub, emphasising technological integration in global operations, Brian Lee, President, EMEA Region, Geekplus, said. "This collaboration is testament to our shared vision of transforming warehouse management through cutting-edge automation, enhancing efficiency and flexibility. By implementing Geekplus technology, Hell-



mann Worldwide is positioning itself at the forefront of innovation in order fulfillment

solutions, and we are excited to support them in all ways," Lee added.

Saudi Arabia and Lithuania sign an agreement to expand logistics sector

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Lithuania have signed a new agreement to strengthen cooperation in air transport services. The deal, formalised by Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Duailej, President, General Authority of Civil Aviation, and Lithuanian Ambassador Ramunas Davionis, sets a framework for air operations between the two nations. The agreement



aims to expand the network of KSA national carriers, enhance its status as a global

logistics hub, and grow air linkage to 250 places.

Marius Skuodis, Acting Minister, Transport and Communications, said, "We see the KSA aviation market as promising, so signing this pact marks an important step towards dialogue for smoother relations in transport. This agreement will open several opportunities for cargo and passenger flights, he added.

GWC eyes logistics expansion with OFC in KSA

GWC has announced a partnership with Saudi Offshore Fabrication Company (OFC) to develop 100,000 square meters of Grade 'A' logistics facilities at Ras Al Khair Industrial Port. The pact aims to enhance OFC's storage and logistics services, with GWC Energy Services leverag-



ing its expertise in logistics and energy supply chains to create optimised solutions for clients, Matthew Kearns, Deputy CEO, GWC, said. "This collaboration reinforces our commitment to strengthen our footprint in the Saudi market."

ChannelEngine, Aramex to expand e-commerce

Aramex has teamed up with ChannelEngine to boost e-commerce capacity for brands and retailers. This partnership enables businesses to access new sales channels across the Middle East and global markets, enhancing customer reach and facilitating market expansion, Tarek Abuyaghi, GM, Aramex, said. "We are delighted to partner with Chan-



nelEngine and their robust solution, which empowers businesses to manage their online presence across several marketplaces and third-party sales channels. As a company committed to innovation, we believe this partnership will enhance our last-mile delivery services, he added.

UrbanLink and Traverse Aero to add hybrid-electric cargo drones

UrbanLink Air Mobility LLC has partnered with California-based Traverse Aero to acquire 40 Orca drones. The Orca, a hybrid-electric eVTOL designed for palletised cargo, offers a 600-mile range and a 550-pound payload capacity. “This partnership marks another step in our mission to deliver sustainable, high-value, end-to-end transportation across air, sea and ground,” Ed Wegel, Founder and Chairman, UrbanLink, said. Powered by batteries and SAF, the Orca reduces CO₂ emissions by 80 per cent, making it an eco-friendly choice for logistics, first responder support, humanitarian relief, and national security.



Cargolux integrates with online platforms to expand digital booking



Cargolux has announced its integration with online cargo booking platforms cargo.one, CargoAi, and WebCargo, to meet demand for digital services. Initially available in Benelux and Germany, the freighter operator plans to expand access to other regions. “As demand for digital processes grows, we are intent on embracing change and broadening our digital reach. Joining marketplaces offers an additional tool for our clients to book capacity that matches their requirements,” Mathieu Weber, Vice President, Digital Sales, Cargolux, said.

DHL, Shell Partner for sustainable air freight at Brussels Airport



DHL Express and Shell have signed a one-year agreement to advance sustainable air freight at Brussels Airport, featuring the delivery of 25,000 tonnes of SAF via pipeline. Derived from waste materials and renewable feedstocks, the SAF is certified under the ISCC system and is likely to cut GHG emissions by 80,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent compared to traditional jet fuel. Travis Cobb, EVP Global Network Operations and Aviation, DHL Express, said, “Our customers benefit from our continuously increasing SAF coverage across different regions, now including our investment in SAF at Brussels Airport.”

K+N launches specialised forwarding service for cloud computing goods

K+N has launched a specialised forwarding service for transporting goods related to cloud computing, responding to growing industry demand. The service leverages K+N’s air logistics network and includes white-glove road transport for sensitive and oversized servers. Digital tools help minimise risks and optimise routes, while GPS tracking ensures monitoring of shipment movements. Yngve Ruud, Member, Management Board, K+N International AG for Air Logistics, said, “Customers of cloud infra demand secure, and scalable solutions catering to needs of their industry.”



Vienna Airport reports 20% increase in cargo volumes this year

Vienna Airport saw a 20 per cent rise in cargo volumes during the first nine months of 2024—216,360 tonnes. This growth was driven by flown and truck air freight, with belly cargo rising by 45 per cent at 90,692 tonnes. The trend continued into the third quarter, highlighting the airport’s robust performance in the cargo sector, Michael Zach,

SVP, Ground Handling and Cargo Operations, Vienna Airport, said. “The expansion through new flights and extra cargo flights demonstrates the airport’s importance as a strategic hub in the region. The growth shows we can respond to the needs of global logistics in a dynamic market.”





Trendsetters of the month



DHL

DHL's post about their GoHelp Disaster Response Team took social media by storm, garnering **2.6k** reactions and **740k** plays



FedEx

Thanksgiving post went viral on Facebook with over **2.9k** likes and **2.5k** comments



Qatar Airways Cargo

Breaking barriers, Qatar Airways Cargo's video of their historic all-female crew and ground staff operating a Boeing 777 freighter went viral, soaring to **4.7 mn** views



DHL & Coldplay

DHL and Coldplay's collaboration reel struck the right chord, going viral with over **3.6 mn** views



Etihad Airways

Etihad's partnership with Formula 1 fuelled excitement on the portal, amassing more than **1.2k** likes and **50** reposts



Maersk

Maersk's post celebrating the inspiring journey of Maersk Air Cargo A/S pilots into air freight resonated widely, earning **1.2K** likes and **85** reposts



AI advancing your cargo business



AI on the Fly: Tools to keep your cargo business rolling

In today's fast-paced logistics world, AI is not a buzzword—it is the secret sauce to running operations smoother, faster, and smarter.

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- Smart speaker identification: Know who said what
- Seamless integrations: Otter.ai auto-joins your Zoom, Google Meet, or MS Teams meetings
- Team collaboration: Highlight, comment, and share transcripts within seconds.

For cargo firms juggling global teams, remote workers, and tight deadlines, AI all are on the same page—literally!

Pro Tip: Otter.ai works on-the-go with its mobile app—ideal for logistics managers attending client calls on the move.

Final Word: Do not let meetings weigh you down

In an industry where time is money and clarity is key, Otter.ai ensures your meetings are productive and well-documented. So, say goodbye to "What did I miss?" and hello to AI-powered precision!

It's AI working smarter so you can work harder on what matters most—delivering excellence. Because in logistics, every detail matters...

Movements

SAUDIA CARGO KSA



Loay Mashabi has been appointed as the CEO, effective 1 January 2025, at Saudia Cargo. In his new role, he will focus on accelerating Saudia Cargo's growth, expanding its network, and providing customer-centric solutions.

EMIRATES Kuwait & Iraq



Khalfan Al Salami has been appointed as the new Country Manager, Kuwait and Iraq, Emirates. In his new role, he will oversee Emirates' operation in the regions, support commercial and business ops and strengthen business across GCC.

ETIHAD CARGO UAE



Andy Newbold has been appointed as Senior Manager, Global Accounts, at Etihad Cargo. He has 35 years of experience. Earlier, he was in Air France KLM Martinair Cargo. He is experienced in air cargo ops, commercial strategy etc.

DNATA UAE



Guillaume Crozier has been appointed as the Chief Cargo Officer, dnata. Earlier, he was the SVP, Cargo & Global Cargo Strategy. With 20 years of experience, he oversaw dnata's cargo ops in UAE, while driving cargo initiatives.

DNATA UAE



Jaffar Dawood has been promoted as Divisional SVP, UAE Airport Operations. In his new role, he will lead the strategy and of dnata's ground handling business across the two Dubai airports—DXB and DWC.

IAG CARGO UK



Daniel Rodriguez joined as the Head, Digital Sales, in IAG Cargo. In his new role, he will accelerate its online offering and serve the demands of our customers worldwide. Rodriguez has held different roles in IAG Cargo since 2018.

HELLMAN WORLDWIDE UAE



Madhav Kurup has been appointed as the Chief Operating Officer for Air Freight, Sea Freight, and Contract Logistics at Hellmann Worldwide Logistics. Currently, Kurup is serving as the Regional Chief Executive Officer for the IMEA region.

ATLAS AIR WORLDWIDE HOLDINGS, INC. USA



Klaus Goersch has joined as Executive VP and CEO at Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings Inc. He will join Atlas leadership team wherein his role will be to lead global flight, ground, and technical ops. Earlier, he was the COO at Air India.

3PL GROUP Denmark



Ilya Goncharov was appointed Head, Industrial Projects division, at 3PL Group. In his new role, he will oversee ops across Denmark, Poland, Finland, Lithuania, and Latvia. The division has achieved a range of intricate projects.

CHAPMAN FREEBORN IMEA



Linas Dovydenas has joined as the President, India, Middle East & Africa, Chapman Freeborn. Prior to this appointment, he was the EVP, ACMI Leasing, Chapman Freeborn. He also worked in the firm's parent company, Avia Solutions Group.

MENZIES AVIATION MEA



Nouamane Zahouani joined as the new VP, Central and East Africa, at Menzies Aviation. In his new role, he will oversee the cargo handling and operations across the region. Previously, he served as the GM for handling and cargo operations.

GEODIS Asia Pacific & Middle East



Eric Martin-Neuvill has joined as the Executive Vice President, Asia-Pacific & Middle East, GEODIS. He started from Calberson International, France. In 2007, he oversaw the merger between TNT Freight Management and GEODIS.



SKYLINK CARGO SERVICES

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Operating Daily Wide Body Aircraft from Dubai to Kabul

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