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May 2024

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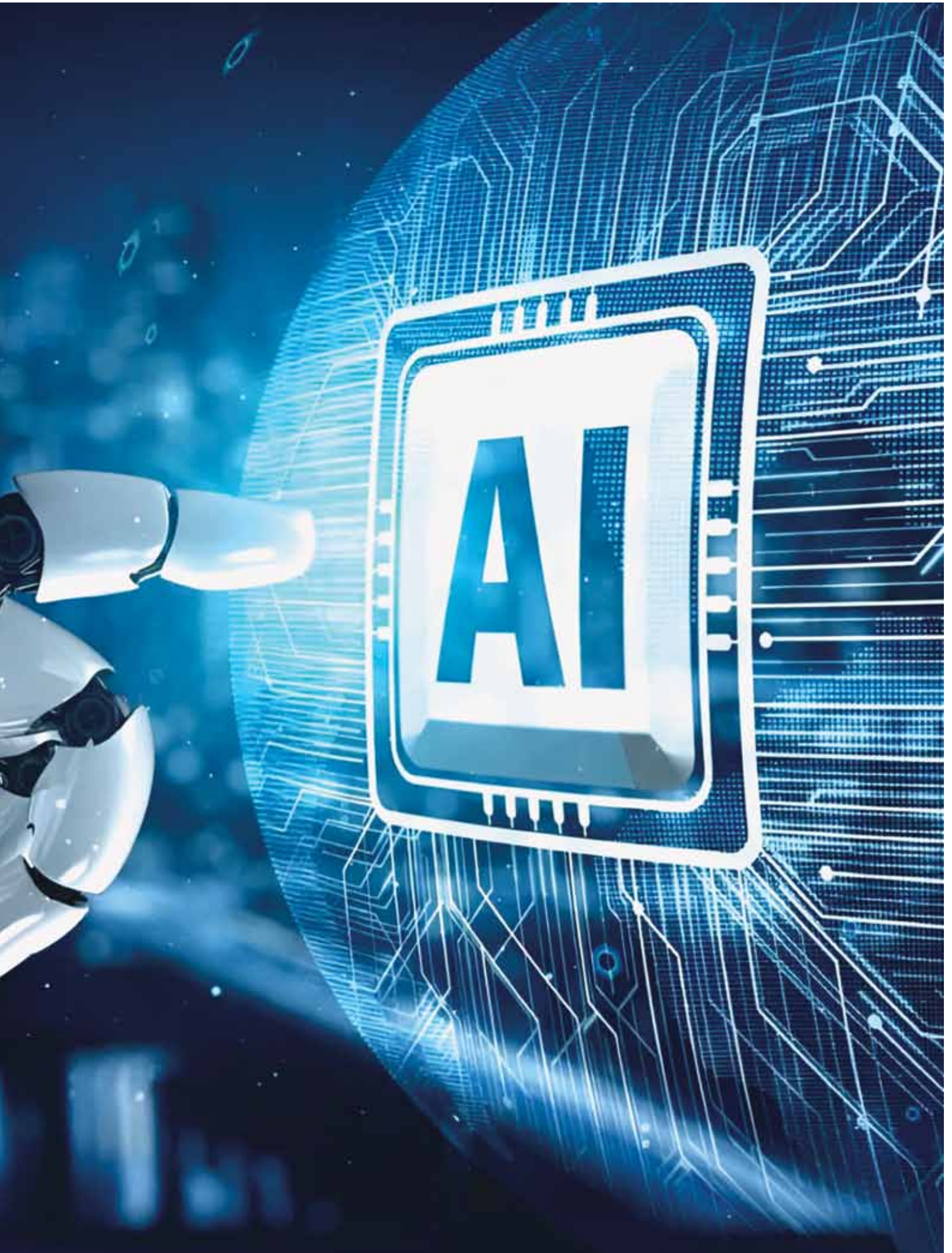
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Artificial Intelligence transforming air cargo

What place does AI have in the air cargo world? The primary benefit of an AI-powered system for air cargo is that it can offer predictive analytics and enable informed decision-making for businesses. Understanding critical events such as capacity and demand rise and slump is essential in the air cargo industry.





 Abigail Mathias

Many large air cargo service providers have started to experiment with the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Some of the most prolific cases include scanning to

Some interesting experiments with AI include predicting no-shows to optimise load factor

digitize paper air waybills, helping to price ad hoc shipments more accurately and dynamically, and forecasting to better manage resources and results. Many innovative ideas for AI never make it to production, either because they do not have the high-quality and normalised data

needed, or the data available is not well suited to the problem being addressed. Machine Learning (ML) is the most common entry point for AI. It uses huge amounts of structured data to identify patterns and learning. The broader description of AI though, includes the use of non-structured data such as text documents, newsfeeds, images, and speech.

Companies are also exploring how AI can help identify customs harmonised commodity codes in one record and cargo management systems. Some interesting industry experiments with AI include predicting no-shows to optimise load factors, enhance goods inspections, detect anomalies, and review air waybills to identify sanctions, safety, and security issues. There is huge

potential from analysing visual inputs, but maybe the biggest use case will come from better forecasting because of its obvious potential to optimise services across the supply chain. In all cases, results will multiply in value as more structured and unstructured data feeds are captured and used. We speak to a few professionals to highlight some of the benefits of the use of AI.



AI applications can improve safety by ensuring cargo is properly scanned

“The significance of AI in air cargo operations lies in addressing critical workforce challenges and enhancing operational efficiency. AI offers a solution to this problem by capturing, retaining, and transferring this knowledge.



Thomas Schürmann
Head, Cargo Operations
& Delivery, Etihad Cargo

AI: A BOON OR A BANE

With its capacity to leverage various types of data analytics, AI can transform the industry into an efficient, proactive, and customer-focused sector. While there are challenges to be addressed, the benefits far outweigh the potential down-

sides. By enabling a more data-driven approach to operations, AI is indeed a boon to the industry, enhancing service delivery, operational efficiency, and ultimately, customer satisfaction.

AI applications in air cargo operations can improve safety and security by ensuring that cargo is properly scanned,

checked, and loaded according to established protocols. Etihad Cargo utilises AI to

challenging conditions to a more innovative and technologically advanced sector.

Tools that use AI for load planning, ULD and build-up, demonstrate how AI can streamline ops

identify potential security threats that might be overlooked by human operators.

This approach can help shift the perception of the industry from one that involves manual labour in

DIAGNOSTIC ANALYTICS

Diagnostic analytics goes a step further by pinpointing the reasons behind these outcomes, offering deeper insight into operational challenges or successes. This understanding is significant for troubleshooting issues, optimising processes, and enhancing service quality. It helps the industry not just to react but to understand them, thereby improving the decision-making processes. Prescriptive analytics takes the potential of AI in air cargo operations to another level by suggesting actionable strategies. Such measures can enhance efficiency and customer satisfaction.”

Tools that use AI for dimensioning, load planning, ULD build-up, and contour checks demonstrate how AI can streamline operations. In partnership with Speecargo, Etihad Cargo has rolled out AI-powered solutions that have enabled us to optimise how cargo is measured, planned, and loaded, which has reduced time and effort required for these tasks.

Optimise air routes, improve cargo loading to improve efficiency, cut costs

“AI is already bringing transformative changes to air cargo operations in the following areas:

- ❖ Efficiency: Artificial Intelligence optimises route planning and cargo loading, improving operational efficiency and reducing costs



Dhruv Agrawal
COO and Co-founder
Shippy

- ❖ Agility: Leveraging huge amounts of real-time and historical data, AI makes accurate forecasts to avoid flight overlays or similar disruptions
- ❖ Automation: AI automates processes from handling and sorting air cargo to customs and compliance, speed-

ing up operations and reducing human errors

- ❖ Security: AI improves security measures, using advanced surveillance to safeguard goods

- ❖ Customer service: It enhances customer experience by providing real-time tracking and predictive insights about cargo shipments

Now, Artificial Intelligence (AI) will continue to enhance operational efficiencies—optimising air routes, improving air cargo loading, forecasting maintenance, and speeding up customs processes. This reduces freight costs and boosts customer satisfaction with faster and more reliable services.

AI-DRIVEN ANALYTICS

AI-driven analytics can lead to improved decision-making and using real-time data to swiftly adapt to market demands as well as operational challenges.

Before implementing the advanced technology, businesses should make their plans well in advance, set up

re-skilling programmes, deploy robust security policies, and adopt strategies in order to safeguard customer data.

Shippy is weaving AI into the very fabric of our supply chain operations of the customers. Our AI co-pilot

AI improves security measures, using advanced surveillance to safeguard customer goods

continuously analyses critical operational KPIs to unearth potential threshold breaches.

Using AI and ML-powered optimisation engines, businesses now-a-days are automating route creation and optimisation, order allocation, carrier selection, workforce planning, customer service, and more.”



Will AI become the new strategic partner for procurement?

“Artificial Intelligence technology is crowding global, regional, and local news cycles and conversations across all industries. Introduction of this technology can be used in nearly every industry and business has stirred up unprecedented interest among IT leaders and the C-suite. For procure-



Craig Hendry
Principal and Director,
Engineering, Efficio

tasks, allowing the professionals to focus on priorities. As we start to enter a new era of smart buying, senior public and private leaders are seeking ways to enhance their operational prowess, while saving costs.

IMPACTING BOTTOM LINE

Integrating AI into management strategies is a vital step forward in revenue and cost-cutting approaches, with 50 per cent of leaders agreeing that AI will impact their bottom line in 2024 and 56 per cent prioritising cases impacting revenue or costs. Despite the hype, AI opportunities have yet to be determined across the industries. However, for procurement, the value-add opportunities for AI models are emerging across the entire lifecycle. We are witnessing an initial wave of automation, including the streamlining of tasks such

as document generation and data analysis.

USES OF AI IN PROCUREMENT

Take finding suppliers as an example, AI-powered platforms match procurement needs with a database of suppliers. AI can suggest potential suppliers based on past interactions and performance metrics. This apart, AI can also perform dynamic supplier evaluation on parameters such as delivery times, quality, and pricing.

Procurement leaders can also utilise AI models to accelerate the creation, distribution, and analysis of documents including Requests for Proposals, Request for Quote and Requests for Information.

Organisations either don't have enough people or their existing teams don't have the right skill set needed to elevate Procurement. AI-enabled systems can be vital in this situation by enabling teams to continuously monitor

contract performance, KPIs, deadlines, deliverables, and compliance metrics.

As AI and large language model integrations extend beyond task automation and provide insights on key

Despite the initial hype, the AI has yet to be determined across the industries

trends, supplier performance, and risk assessments. This will empower procurement to make swift data-driven decisions, enabling a shift towards a significant role emphasising nuanced decision-making, and relationship management. This transition will be an important factor in attracting and retaining the right talent in the team.”

The technology can evaluate suppliers on parameters such as delivery times & quality

ment in particular, AI promises to drive efficiency and improve productivity in areas by performing administrative





Tech approach delivers detailed insights for better decision-making

“Aerios’ vision is to link air cargo charter experts and carriers into a single digital workflow driven by real-time data. It is the first software solution to combine communications and air cargo charter operations into a single tool. AI-driven data



Simon Watson
Founder, Aerios

and work together more efficiently and maximise revenue for all parties.

The charter industry is ready to be altered with the launch of Aerios, software specially designed to meet this sector’s complex needs. By replacing disparate

systems and manual processes with a single digital workflow, Aerios aims to address long-standing inefficiencies that have hampered the industry.

“We created Aerios in order to fill the gap in the industry. Our software does more than just digitalize existing ops; it alters them, giving access to operational data and market intelligence in real-time. This means fewer errors, informed decisions, allowing our clients and customers to scale their operation in a cost-efficient manner.”

We created Aerios to fill the gap. The tool does more than just digitalize existing ops

delivers actionable insights for better decision-making and market intelligence, enabling charter professionals, brokers, and carriers to connect

AI has become a daily tool prompting us to rethink the way we work

“The revolutionary development in freight forwarding is AI, which automates and optimises day-to-day operations in an industry that has been heavily manual. It is not just a buzzword, but an everyday tool prompting the



Lionel van der Walt
Chief Growth Officer,
Raft

that comes from different sources, such as PDFs, EDI invoices, Excel files, and emails. AI-powered platforms such as Raft are managing the entire process, from extracting and understanding the data, to integrations with TMS’ and other operating systems that facilitate intel-

ligent workflow automations, detailed management reporting, and improved visibility and decision making. This results in an enhanced customer experience and improved profitability.

Challenge for the forwarders is scalability, as they work across multiple offices, branches

industry to rethink the way we work. A major, time-consuming challenge faced by forwarders is the processing of messy, unstructured data

“Another challenge is scalability, as teams work across many offices and branches. Automation can help improve collaboration, communication, and workflow by allowing the teams to work together, tag colleagues, maintain an audit trail, and receive notifications.”



Heat is on: Transporting temperature-sensitive cargo

As temperatures rise so does the challenge of beating the heat, while transporting consignments. Many require special measures to get to their destination, fresh and undamaged. This includes products such as pharmaceuticals, perishables and beverages, cosmetics, batteries, and electronics.

 Abigail Mathias

To combat the summer heat, shipping temperature-sensitive freight requires at the very least temperature-monitoring, with many products such as pharmaceuticals and perishables among others requiring temperature-controlled transport.

Transporting heat-sensitive items necessitates considering the temperature of the goods throughout the supply

KEY FEATURES

- Some heat-sensitive products need to remain at a specific temperature every step of the way to prevent spoilage.
- Every month, around 4,000 tonnes of fruits, vegetables and other perishables are moved from India by Emirates SkyCargo aircraft.

chain process. Some heat-sensitive products need to remain at a specific temperature every step of the way to prevent spoilage requiring temperature-controlled transportation, while others can handle a little bit of heat without being compromised.

Every day, around 1,100 tonnes of food and other perishable products originating from different parts of the world move through various cargo terminals. The timely

dispatch of these products is an imperative aspect of the process.

One of the points of origin for perishables for Emirates SkyCargo is India. Every month, around 4,000 tonnes of fruits, vegetables and other perishables are moved from India by Emirates SkyCargo aircraft. Produce exported include summer fruits such as mangoes and vegetables such as guavas and okra, drumsticks and chillies to help

bring a taste of home to Indian expat communities. In various markets. Since May 2019, Emirates SkyCargo has moved 18,000 tonnes of perishables from India alone.

PREMIUM TAILORED SOLUTIONS

Etiihad Cargo transports a wide range of temperature-sensitive commodities, including pharmaceuticals and perishables, via our premium



Fabrice Panza
Manager, Special Products
Etiihad Cargo

products PharmaLife and FreshForward. The carrier's award-winning, IATA CEIV Pharma-certified PharmaLife product is dedicated to the safe transportation of pharma around the world. To meet the needs of transporting dangerous goods in frozen and deep-frozen conditions, PharmaLife provides premium tailored solutions to handle temperature-controlled conditions from minus 80°

to 25°C via the carrier's portfolio of leased active and hybrid containers."

This apart, the carrier has also increased its dry ice carrying capability, with its full freighters carrying up to 13 tonnes of dry ice, one of the largest amounts of dry ice that airlines are permitted to carry. "In addition to launching a new pharma facility that will double our cool chain capac-

“**Etiihad Cargo hiked its dry ice carrying capability, with its freighters carrying up to 13 tonnes of dry ice.**”

ity, we are gradually adding new, exclusive features to our PharmaLife product across our network. We have just launched our new dedicated thermal covers for PharmaLife products into our top pharma origin stations, including Amsterdam and Paris.

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Transporting temperature-sensitive cargo comes with many challenges. For exam-

ple, variable environmental temperature is a greater challenge given the high temperatures in the UAE, including humidity and solar reflection. The time on the tarmac will always be a critical factor, as any amount of time the cargo spends outside of the required temperature range will impact the quality and integrity of products. This is why Etiihad Cargo has stringent service level agreements in place, ensuring risk the factors are anticipated and mitigated.

Moreover, the global reach of Etiihad Cargo's operations, with international airports serving as hubs combined with our road feeder trucking networks, ensures that even the most remote destinations are accessible. This capability is significant for delivering sensitive cargo directly to where it is needed, thereby minimising the need for extended ground transportation and the associated risks.

INVESTING IN INFRA, TECHNOLOGY

dnata continues to invest in infrastructure and equipment to ensure efficient and safe handling of perishable goods. With the temperatures rising above 40°C during the summer in Dubai, our cutting-edge facilities are equipped to maintain all IATA standards for temperature control ranges at all stages of the cargo handling process. This



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

“**We transport goods to and from the aircraft in 'cool dollies,' designed to serve perishable and pharmaceutical products.**”

includes transportation to and from the aircraft in high-tech 'cool dollies,' specially designed to serve perishable and pharmaceutical products with a closed temperature-controlled system.

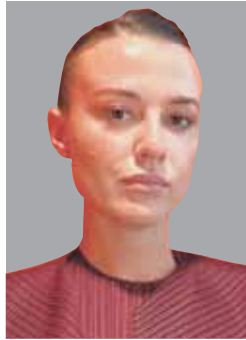
Our cool chain facilities at our Dubai World Central hub provide 22 separate storage areas, offering a range of temperatures from minus 20°C deep freeze through to



refrigeration and 25°C controlled room temperature. We are committed to consistently investing in infrastructure and digital technologies to strengthen Dubai's position as a leading global cargo hub. Despite extreme heat, our world-class facilities, advanced equipment and cooperation with our partners and authorities ensure that each piece of perishable cargo remains at its optimum storage temperature throughout the transportation process.

CLIMATE CONTROL, CAREFUL HANDLING

Goods2Load employs strategies to ensure the safe transport of sensitive air cargo, especially during challenging summer temperatures. We primarily utilise logistic suppliers capable of identifying and using climate-controlled containers and aircraft with advanced monitoring to maintain optimal conditions. Our trusted carriers, experienced in delicate cargo handling, implement additional precautions as needed. With our commitment to logistics excellence, we guarantee the



Jessica Parigani
Founder
Goods2Load

safe and secure arrival of your sensitive air cargo, regardless of seasonal challenges.

Shipping sensitive air cargo during summer frequently poses challenges such as temperature fluctuations, fragility, security concerns, and regulatory compliance. Limitations include the need for consistent climate control, careful handling to prevent damage, stringent security measures, and adherence to the complex regulations, which can increase logistical complexity and costs. Air cargo is ideal for transporting sensitive cargo due to its speed, global reach,

controlled environment, enhanced security measures, and reliability. With fast transit times, access to remote locations, climate-controlled

“ Shipping sensitive air cargo during summer poses several challenges.”

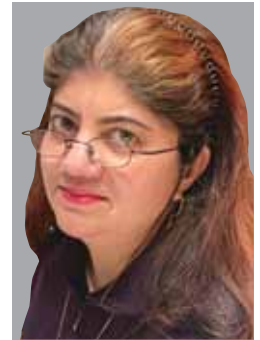
facilities, strict security protocols, and dependable operations, air cargo ensures the safe and secure transportation of sensitive goods.

CONSISTENCY NEED OF THE HOUR

With temperatures soaring above 45°C in the region, air cargo is the best way to transport sensitive shipments. The consistency with which freight operators manage the shipments is hard to duplicate by road or by sea. Which is why air cargo is the most pre-

ferred means to ferry goods, which are more time-bound.

Shippers need to know the pros and cons of air cargo shipping to make the best decisions for their shipments. The pros of air cargo include the speed of delivery, the ability to ship to remote locations, and the shipment's safety and



Simona Bakaya
Operations Manager
United Legacy Travels

security. The cons of air cargo shipping include the high cost, the potential for delays, and the need for special handling. As temperatures soar, it becomes imperative to manage timely shipment of goods to their respective locations.





Air cargo shipping is one of the most reliable transport. It offers improved tracking and increased assurance that your products will arrive at their destination on time. Also, air freight companies have a good

“**Air cargo firms have a track record of delivering products on time and in good condition.**”

track record of delivering products on time and in good condition. They also have an extensive network of agents and partners who can help with the shipping process. This means that if there are any delays or problems with the shipment, they can usually be resolved quickly.

STRICT QUALITY CONTROL

Transporting sensitive cargo during summer needs meticulous planning and execution. Proper packaging with insulated materials and thermal blankets maintains the the cargo's internal temperature, while ensuring thermal resistance and moisture protection. Implementing temperature monitoring systems enables real-time tracking and intervention, if needed. Collaboration with airlines and instructions for handling and storage, minimises risks.

Maintaining stringent quality control ensures cargo integrity, ensuring successful delivery despite challenging conditions. During summer season, the logistics industry experiences adjustments to meet the heightened demand



Sijo Joseph Philip
Senior Manager
Orient Cargo

across sectors such as retail, tourism, and agriculture.

This increase in demand necessitates operations to accommodate the increased volumes of goods being transported. With rising temperatures, there is a heightened emphasis on transporting temperature-sensitive items such as fresh produce and pharmaceuticals.

These require careful handling and storage throughout the transportation process

to maintain their quality and integrity. Last-mile delivery (LMD), especially for e-commerce and parcels, witnesses a surge in demand during the summer due to increased consumer activity. This in-

“**We leverage cutting-edge route optimisation and real-time tracking systems to minimise transit times and ensure LMD.**”

creased demand prompts logistics providers to enhance their route optimisation strategies and increase their delivery capacity to ensure timely deliveries.

As a service provider, we leverage cutting-edge route optimisation and real-time tracking systems to minimise transit times and ensure delivery of goods, particularly during periods of weather disruptions. Collaborating with special vendors enables us to guarantee punctual transportation of goods throughout the summer months. 🌞





11% growth in air cargo demand in March: IATA

This is the third consecutive month of double-digit year-on-year demand cargo growth. Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), increased by 13.4 per cent compared to February 2023 (16.0% for international operations), says **Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA**.

 CT Bureau

IATA released data for February 2024 international air cargo markets showing continuing strong annual growth in demand. Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers rose by 11.9 per cent compared to February 2023 levels (12.4% for international operations).

This is the third consecutive month of double-digit year-on-year demand cargo growth. Cargo capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers increased by 13.4

per cent compared to February 2023 (16.0% for global operations). This was largely related to the increase in international belly capacity accompanying growth in passenger markets (29.5% year-on-year increase), which far exceeded global capacity on freighters (3.2% YoY growth).

“February’s demand growth of 11.9 per cent far outpaced the 0.9 per cent expansion in cross-border trade. This strong start for 2024 could see demand surpass the exceptionally high levels of early 2022. It also shows air cargo’s strong



Willie Walsh
DG, IATA

resilience in the face of continuing political and economic uncertainties,” Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA, said.

FEBRUARY REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

- Middle Eastern carriers saw 20.9 per cent YoY growth in demand for air cargo in February. The Middle East–Europe market was the strongest performing with 39.3 per cent growth, far ahead of Middle East–Asia which grew by 21.9 per cent YoY. February capacity increased 16.2 per cent year-on-year.

- Asia-Pacific Airlines saw 11.9 per cent YoY demand growth for air cargo in February. This was a significant



Vital factors in global operating environment

- ❖ Global cross-border trade increased by 0.9 per cent in January
- ❖ In February, the manufacturing output Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) climbed to 51.2, indicating expansion. The new export orders PMI also rose to 49.4, remaining slightly below the 50 threshold that would indicate growth
- ❖ February YoY inflation dropped to 2.8 per cent in the EU, while rising to 2.8 per cent and 3.2 per cent in Japan and the USA, respectively.
- ❖ After four months of deflation, China reported a 0.7 per cent increase in inflation YoY—a positive development amid concerns over China's economic slowdown.

AIR CARGO MARKET IN DETAIL

FEBRUARY 2024 (%YEAR-ON-YEAR)	WORLD SHARE *1	CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-PT) *2	CLF (LEVEL) *3
Total Market	100%	11.9%	13.4%	-0.6%	45.1%
Africa	2.0%	22.0%	28.2%	-2.3%	45.1%
Asia Pacific	33.3%	11.9%	23.1%	-4.3%	43.2%
Europe	21.4%	14.6%	13.2%	0.7%	58.4%
Latin America	2.8%	13.7%	8.9%	1.6%	37.6%
Middle East	13.5%	20.9%	16.2%	1.8%	46.3%
North America	26.9%	4.2%	1.9%	0.9%	39.6%

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

decrease compared to January's 24.3 per cent YoY growth. Capacity increased by 23.1 per cent year-on-year as belly capacity came online with recovery in the passenger business.

KEY FEATURES

- Return on investment for digitalised warehouse management systems can be substantial, thereby making it a cost-effective solution.



“ It shows air cargo sector’s strong resilience in the face of continuing political and economic uncertainties.”

Red Sea chaos leads to increase in demand

Load factor in opening three months of 2024 rose 2% pts YoY to 59%, and March performance has shown similar growth, edging up to 61%. The level of demand in the first quarter does not indicate a market which is running out of steam so far, says **Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer, Xeneta.**

 CT Bureau

Global air cargo market demand rose by 11 per cent year-on-year for the third consecutive month in March as buoyant e-commerce volumes and concerns over Red Sea disruption on ocean freight services delivered an unexpected Q1 bonus for forwarders and airlines, as per the latest weekly market data from Xeneta.

In what are weaker months of the year for the industry, these higher volumes out-paced growth in capacity supply in Q1, which increased by

8 per cent YoY. In turn, this produced a jump in the global dynamic load factor, which is Xeneta's measurement of cargo capacity utilisation based on volume and weight of cargo flown alongside capacity available.

Load factor in the opening three months of 2024 rose by 2 per cent pts YoY to 59 per cent and March performance has shown similar growth, edging up to 61 per cent.

“While this latest monthly data should be balanced against the lower base recorded in the corresponding

Air freight growth was driven by more volumes from the Middle East and South Asia

month of 2023, when we saw weakened global manufacturing activities, Q1 2024 has seen a busy air freight market. The level of demand in the first quarter does not indicate

a market, which is running out of steam so far,” said Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer, Xeneta.

“The question is, should we be surprised by it, or should we get used to it? Although the market did not benefit immediately, the Red Sea disruption was clearly a factor in these latest figures. Air freight growth was primarily driven by increased volumes from the Middle East and South Asia as shippers shifted services from ocean to air to avoid Red Sea delays. We also cannot underestimate the importance of e-commerce growth, which



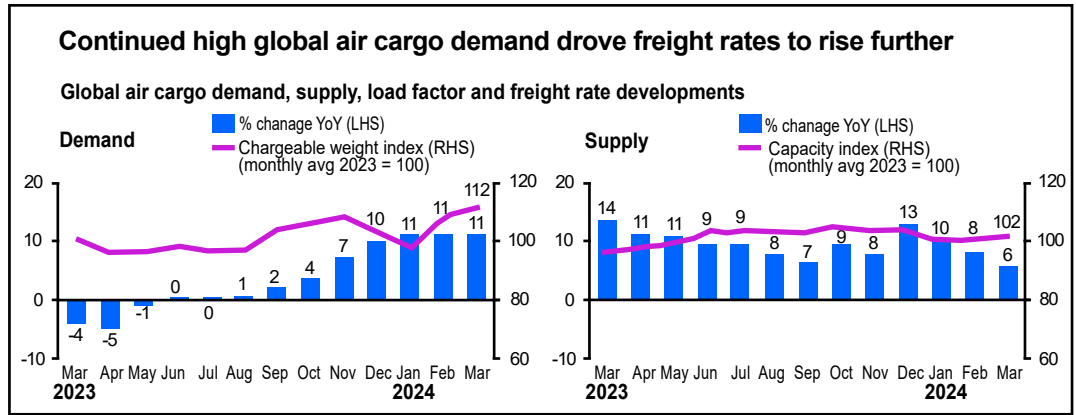
shows no sign of abating on its most prominent lanes.”

Subsequently, the average global air freight spot rate in March increased by 7 per cent from the previous month to US\$2.43 per kg.

On the corridor level, as highlighted, the Middle East and South Asia to Europe market continued to lead the growth of air cargo rates in March as the influx of air cargo demand caused by Red Sea concerns squeezed capacity on these lanes.

The average spot rate on this corridor jumped 46 per cent over February’s level to US\$2.82 per kg, up 71 per cent year-on-year. This was

China outbound market experienced a decline in its spot rate versus February 2024



especially seen for the India outbound market, where the India to Europe air cargo spot rate in March rose 68 per cent month-on-month to US\$3.38 per kg.

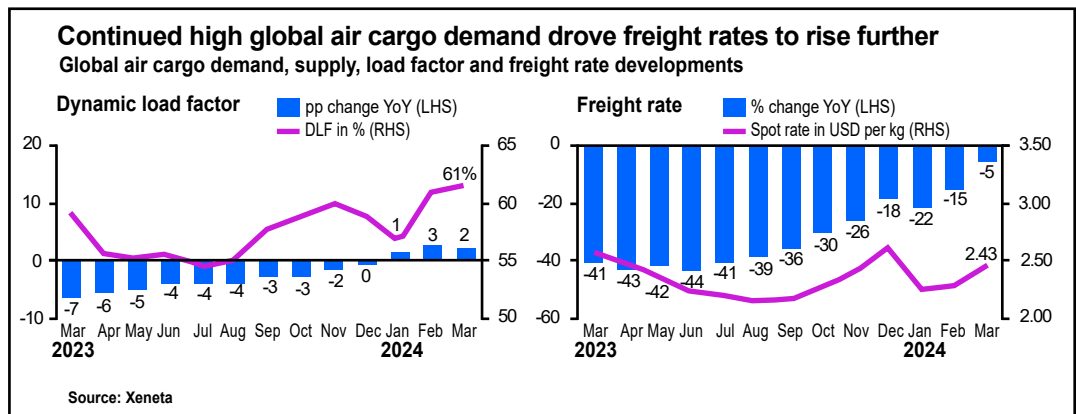
In contrast, the average ocean containerised spot rate on the India West Coast to North Europe lanes experienced a 9 per cent decline in

March after its peak in February, although this remained at 340 per cent above the level in December, prior to the Red Sea disturbances.

The Middle East and South Asia to the USA air cargo market followed suit. Its average spot rate of US\$4.03 per kg in March was up by 35 per cent month-on-month

and by 51 per cent year-on-year. In comparison, the air cargo spot rate from Europe to USA increased marginally by 3 per cent month-on-month to US\$2.12 per kg due to this corridor being less impacted by the Red Sea disruption.

The China outbound market experienced a decline in its spot rate versus February 2024





Niall van de Wouw
Chief Airfreight Officer, Xeneta

The South America out-bound market recorded the largest decline among the top global air cargo corridors

as the market cooled down after the Lunar New Year. The China to Europe spot rate decreased by 3 per cent month-on-month to US\$3.64 per kg. However, it increased by 5 per cent over the previous year, boosted by e-commerce demand and the modal shift away from the Red Sea.

Similarly, the China to USA market spot rate of US\$4.06 per kg slipped down by 2 per cent month-on-

month, growing e-commerce demand and delayed recovery of belly capacity contributed by 15 per cent average jump in spot freight rates.

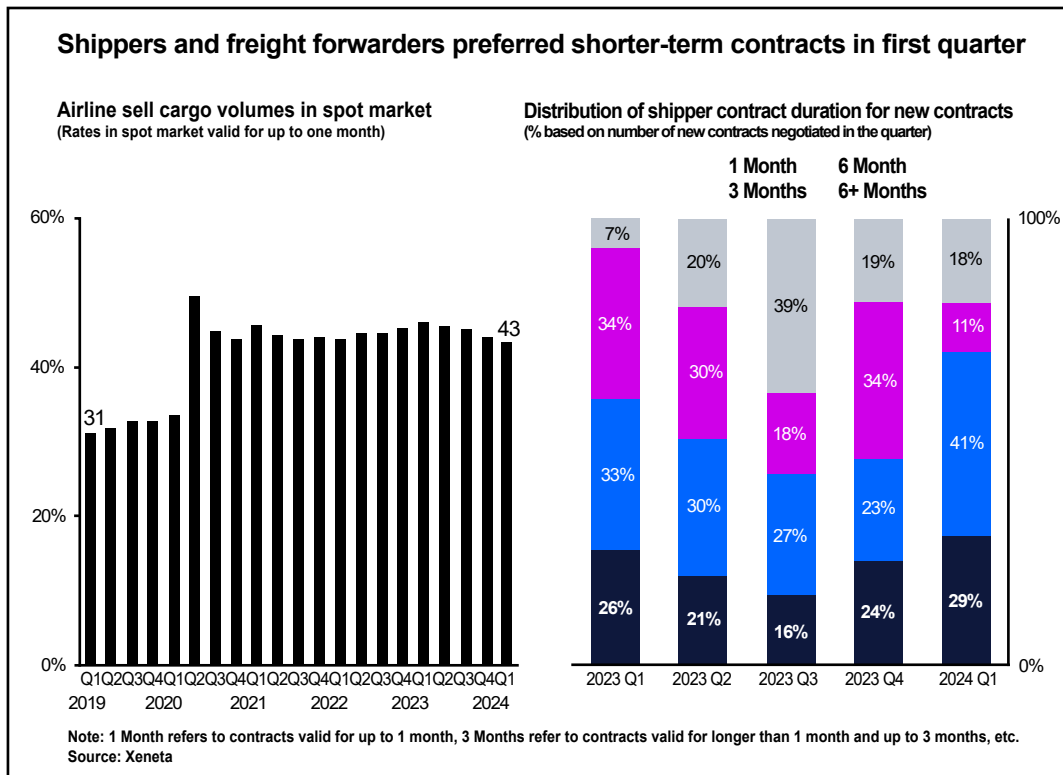
The South America out-bound market recorded the largest decline among the top global air cargo corridors. As floral market demand eased, the South America to USA air cargo spot rate dropped by 12 per cent from the previous month to US\$1.25 per kg

“Capacity grew due to more volumes from ME & South Asia as shippers shifted services from ocean to air.”

in March, down 7 per cent on the previous year. The South America to Europe market experienced a similar trend, with spot rates averaging US\$1.75 per kg, a fall of 18 per cent month on month and 11 per cent year-on-year.

In the first quarter of 2024, the share of volumes in the spot market accounted for 43 per cent of the total market against 31 per cent in the corresponding pre-pandemic era, as expectations of a ‘normalisation’ of the market prompted forwarders to take short-term risks in the spot market in the hope of long-term gains.

“The market has enjoyed a stronger-than-anticipated start to the year, but there is a different quarter coming along as well as more capacity, so we do expect a downward pressure on load factor and rates, aside from selected corridors where the continuing rise of e-commerce and the residue of Red Sea chaos will continue to boost rate levels. But this is now six months in a row that the global air cargo market has been stronger than we expected. When is it going to slow down? Only time will tell but, right now, airfreight demand is surprisingly resilient,” de Wouw said.



TIACA gets new leaders, has fresh perspectives


Six new Board members bring together a wealth of knowledge and experience from across the industry. This year is critical for the association and having strong leadership in place is significant to the association as it continues to grow and invest in programmes that support the industry.

 CT Bureau

Six new members have been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors ensuring effective representation across the industry, TIACA stated. The new Board members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from across the industry.

The new Board members include Jannie Davel, SVP, MSC Cargo; Martin Drew, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, Atlas Air; Diogo Elias, SVP, Avianca Cargo; Dirk Goovaerts, CEO, Continental Europe, Middle East and Africa, Swissport International; Boon Kiam Kuah, SVP, SATS Ltd. And, Nichole Schulz, Director, Industry Affairs, UPS.

“A strong and diverse Board has proven beneficial to the transformation of TIACA over the past few years. The appointment of these new Board Members will not only ensure that we remain agile and relevant but will also provide the Board with a fresh perspective. We are excited to welcome the new Board members to the team and look forward to working with them as we continue our work in enhancing TIACA’s services and ensuring we are fully aligned with industry needs.” Steven Polmans, Chair, TIACA.

“This year is significant for TIACA. Having a strong leadership in place is vital for us as we continue to grow and invest in programmes that support the industry such as BlueSky, Invest in Climate Action and the Air Cargo Training Library,” Glyn Hughes, Director General, TIACA. 



Jannie Davel
Senior Vice President
MSC Cargo



Martin Drew,
Chief Strategy and Transformation
Officer, Atlas Air



Diogo Elias
Senior Vice President
Avianca Cargo



Dirk Goovaerts
CEO, Continental Europe
ME & Africa, Swissport International



Boon Kiam Kuah
Senior Vice President
SATS Ltd.




Nichole Schulz
Director, Industry Affairs
UPS





New **cool dollies** to transport pharmaceuticals, perishables

Etihad Cargo is bridging last gap in its global cool chain offering by providing continuity and stability with advanced temperature-controlled solutions during most critical step of air cargo transportation as the carrier is committed to safe transportation, says **Thomas Schürmann, Head, Cargo Operations and Delivery.**

 CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo has enhanced its Abu Dhabi tarmac transportation fleet with the addition of high-tech cool dollies. The introduction of cool dollies for the transportation of pharmaceutical and perishable shipments will enable the carrier to fully complete its temperature-controlled cool chain capabilities at its Abu Dhabi hub.

In partnership with Etihad Airport Services Cargo, Etihad Cargo has added dedicated cool dollies for pharma and perishable products to provide maximum safety to the carrier's partners at every

The aim of the containers is to control the temperature, eliminate and prevent difficulties

stage of the handling process. The specialised containers will offer a closed, temperature-controlled system to ensure seamless transportation of high-value and temperature-sensitive pharma cargo be-

tween the carrier's aircraft and the cool chain warehouse.

"Etihad Cargo is committed to safe and reliable transportation of temperature-sensitive cargo via its IATA CEIV Pharma-certified PharmaLife and IATA CEIV Fresh-certified products. Part of this commitment is ensuring cargo is ferried between the aircraft and cool chain facilities as fast as possible and mitigating the risks associated with outdoor and environmental conditions during its journey," Thomas Schürmann, Head, Cargo, Operations and Delivery, Etihad Cargo, said. Etihad Cargo and Etihad Airport Services Cargo have partnered to introduce

these dollies at Abu Dhabi Airport hub to minimise the time that temperature-sensitive cargo is exposed to factors, such as high temperatures. These containers control the temperature and enable the carrier to access the data records and provide it visibility of this Critical Control Point to eliminate and prevent hazards.

"We recognise the importance of a secured cool chain, and the demand from our airline and its customers to ensure their shipments are protected during their transit through Abu Dhabi International Airport. Therefore, we are pleased to introduce



and from the aircraft from our cargo facilities. As a CEIV Pharma and Fresh-certified cargo handler, this reiterates our commitment to providing best-in-class services to ensure the safe and efficient carriage of pharmaceuticals through our airport,” Naresh Ranganathan, Acting Vice President, Cargo, Etihad Airport Services Cargo, said.

The cool dollies can be set to a range of temperatures anywhere between 2°C and 25°C, and an in-built alarm system sends alerts if the temperature fluctuates beyond the set parameters. Offering high insulating capacity, a refrigeration cell made with a single-piece fibreglass panel, and reinforced wall, roof and floor panels, the cool dollies provide a temperature-controlled transportation solution. They present a greener choice, promising a longer isolation cell life and easy and low-cost maintenance and significantly reducing overall consumption, fuel costs and environmental impact due to fewer thermal dispersion points and the dollies’ high

these cool dollies, which will be used to transport pharma and perishable products to

thermal insulation and UV reflection properties.

“By providing a fully temperature-controlled solution, Etihad Cargo will enable customers and partners to reduce risks, as cargo will be exposed to the elements for the absolute minimum amount of time. With these brand-new

The cool dollies can be set between 2°C and 25°C, and also have an in-built alarm system

cool dollies, Etihad Cargo is bridging the last gap in its global cool chain offering by providing continuity and stability with advanced temperature-controlled solutions during the most critical step of air cargo transportation,” Schürmann explained.

Since launching PharmaLife, Etihad Cargo has introduced features to enhance the carrier’s cool chain capabilities. This latest addition follows the introduction of dedicated thermal covers and the launch of a modern cool chain facility at Abu Dhabi Airport. Established in partnership with Etihad Airport Services Cargo and Abu Dhabi Airports, the new facility has doubled Etihad Cargo’s cool chain capacity to accommodate an additional 50,000 tonnes of pharma and life sciences products. The pharma hub will support the growing global healthcare and life sciences demand and is in full alignment with Abu Dhabi’s vision to establish the emirate as a global pharma and life sciences hub.

Etihad Cargo has refurbished its perishables handling and storage facility—the carrier has a 3,000 sq. mt. dedicated perishables temperature-controlled warehouse comprising three cool rooms (2 to 8°C). Etihad Cargo’s enhanced FreshForward centre is shifted to its FreshForward truck fleet when products need to be delivered in the UAE or handed over to the consignee at Abu Dhabi Airport, making the end-to-end journey of perishables easier and safer. 🚚



UAE back on track after flash floods

As the recent adverse weather conditions in the UAE extensively damaged transportation services, we examined the toll it took on air cargo services. **CARGO talk** spoke exclusively to those managing major cargo shipments in the country.

CT Bureau

The massive storm on April 16 left a dent in daily cargo operations in the UAE. With multiple inbound and outbound flights cancelled, passengers and shipments remained stranded and delayed.

Anadana spokesperson said, "We are collaborating closely with our partners and authorities to mitigate any impact of the inclement weather and subsequent flight disruptions and adverse road conditions on our cargo operations in Dubai. Our teams are working diligently to process every cargo shipment as quickly as possible, keeping our valued customers updated."

As per the DP World statement, "We confirm that port operations are continuing normally at Jebel Ali, despite the recent adverse weather conditions and all terminals and gates remain open. While some minor delays are possible due to road congestion, we are working diligently to minimise disruptions and expect a return to normal operations within 24 hours."

While many offices offered their employees a chance to work from home, it was the everyday courier and delivery people that were most affected. Nabeel Al Kharabsheh, General Manager, Zajeel Courier Services, shared a post of social media thanking clients for their understanding during

this challenging time. "On behalf of Zajeel and I am confident sure this is the voice of all logistics and delivery companies in UAE, including documents delivery, e-commerce, food delivery, grocery, you name it. We understand how important your shipments are. We also understand how vital it is to deliver your shipments on time. But we really appreciate your understanding of the current situation and considering the safety of our team.

"Our delivery heroes are doing their best to deliver your shipment as per our promises. Our back-office operations are struggling to reach the office to maintain business continuity. Your shipment is important to us, but at the same time, the



Nabeel Al Kharabsheh
General Manager
Zajeel Courier Services

“Our delivery heroes are doing their best to deliver your shipment according to our promises.”

safety of our delivery team is our top priority. So, we are taking all safety measures to ensure the safety of our team. We appreciate your understanding. Thank you very much for your unstinted support, and we look forward to serving you better as soon as we get back to normal."

The rains began late Monday 16 April, pattering the roadways of Dubai with around 20 mm (0.79 inches) of rain, according to meteorological data collected at Dubai International Airport. By the end of Tuesday (April 17), more than 142 mm (5.59 inches) of rainfall had soaked Dubai over 24 hours. An average year sees 94.7 mm (3.73 inches) of rain at Dubai International Airport. 🌧️



Maiden freighter from Nairobi lands in Abu Dhabi

Etihaad Cargo and Astral Aviation reached a partnership to celebrate inaugural cargo flight to expand the former's reach into the African market. This service will strengthen trade links between the UAE and Africa and cater to a wide range of cargo needs, says **Stanislas Brun, Vice President, Cargo, Etihaad Cargo**.

CT Bureau

Etihaad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihaad Airways, in partnership with Astral Aviation, the leading cargo airline with African network coverage, successfully completed the inaugural freighter from Nairobi, Kenya, to Abu Dhabi, UAE, on March 21, 2024. This flight marked the commencement of a promising collaboration following the MoU signed between the two carriers, aimed at expanding Etihaad Cargo's reach into the African market. Regular flights will commence from March 28.

The inaugural flight was strategically timed to accommodate the increased demand for flowers, demonstrating the synergy between Etihaad Cargo's international reach and Astral Aviation's strong

Astral Aviation resumed operation of weekly flights from Abu Dhabi starting March 28, 2024

African network. The successful operation underscored the potential of the partnership to enhance cargo capacity and offer efficient logistics solutions.

Under the MoU, which will see Astral Aviation operating more flights to the UAE's capital, supported by

the UAE's national carrier, Etihaad Cargo and Astral Aviation have committed to leveraging their combined networks, expertise, and logistics capabilities to enhance cargo services between the UAE and Africa. This partnership is a testament to both airlines' commitment to providing innovative and customer-centric solutions, ensuring high-quality service across their operations.

Astral Aviation resumed weekly operations from Abu Dhabi starting 28 March 2024. This regular service is anticipated to further strengthen trade links between the UAE



and Africa, catering to a wide range of cargo needs and fostering economic growth in both the regions.

"The successful inaugural flight from Nairobi to Abu Dhabi is just the beginning of Etihaad Cargo's ambitious journey with Astral Aviation. Together, Etihaad Cargo and Astral Aviation will offer air cargo solutions that cater to the dynamic needs of partners and customers, especially in



Stanislas Brun
Vice President, Cargo
Etihaad Cargo

the fast-growing African market," Stanislas Brun, Vice President, Cargo, Etihaad Cargo, said.

world. The commencement of weekly flights to Nairobi, is evidence of the commercial and business ties of Abu Dhabi Airports, and our partners Etihaad Airways and Astral Aviation, are helping to facilitate,"

“Etihaad Cargo and Astral Aviation will offer cargo solutions to cater to the needs of their clients & partners.”

Wilson Chan, SVP, Freezone Cargo & Logistics, Abu Dhabi Airports, said.

"The partnership between Etihaad Cargo and Astral Aviation marks a milestone in trade between Africa and Abu Dhabi, as the new flight will enable the transportation of perishables from Astral's hubs in Nairobi and Johannesburg into Etihaad's Abu Dhabi hub and onto their network. On the return flight, the freighter will carry cargo from Etihaad's network in Asia, the USA, and Europe into Astral's Intra-African network, resulting in new opportunities for our clients," Sanjeev Gadhia, Chief Executive Officer, Astral Aviation, said.

Apart from the weekly flights launched in partnership with Astral Aviation, Etihaad Cargo will provide more belly capacity to its partners via daily passenger flights to Nairobi from May 1. 🇰🇪

Kale transforms Budapest airport's cargo operations

Airport Cargo Community System of Kale Info Solutions continues to digitalize the industry, with the system's latest adoption at the Budapest airport. Kale's innovative ACS system provides stakeholders with enhanced visibility and transparency, enabling the real-time tracking and monitoring of air cargo movements.

CT Bureau

Kale Logistics Solutions, specialist in providing innovative technological products for the air cargo and logistics industry, has announced its collaboration with Budapest airport to revolutionise cargo operations through the implementation of its cutting-edge Airport Cargo Community System (ACS).

The partnership between Kale Info Solutions B.V. (Kale Info), the fully owned subsidiary of Kale, and Budapest airport marks a milestone in streamlining cargo operations at one of the busiest airports

of Europe. At present, various cargo handlers and integrators use separate Information technology (IT) systems for data collection, reporting and transmission: to the airport and the relevant authorities. This includes parallel or double data communications and opportunities open to digitalise air freight operations and processes.

Kale's innovative ACS system provides stakeholders with enhanced visibility and transparency, enabling the real-time tracking and monitoring of cargo movements, incorporating automated regulatory compliance checks, which further streamlines op-

Budapest airport aims to become the main cargo hub in the Central and Eastern Europe region

erations, ensuring adherence to industry standards.

"Budapest airport aims to become the main cargo hub in the Central and Eastern European region. We are on the

right track, as the dedicated development of the BUD Cargo City in recent years has provided world-class infrastructure, which, combined with excellent connectivity and a tight-knit cargo community, is attracting more and more partners," József Kosuth, Director, Cargo, Budapest airport, said.

"We are now the fastest growing airport in the region in terms of cargo volume, as we handled a record 201,306 tonnes in 2023 with a growth of 48.5 per cent increase compared to 2019. The introduction of the new ACS system adds an important innovative feature to the air-





port's profile, further strengthening the hub function of the airport," he asserted.

"The new system will serve as a centralised platform, facilitating seamless commu-

Introduction of the new ACS system adds an important innovative feature to the BUD's profile

nication and data exchange among all stakeholders involved in the cargo handling process," he added.

"We are excited to partner with the Budapest airport in introducing our ACS system, which will play a significant role in optimising air cargo operations and enhancing overall efficiency. As a leading technology provider to airports worldwide, we are proud to bring our expertise and best practices

to this collaboration, ensuring the highest standards of service and innovation," said Vineet Malhotra, Co-founder and Director, Kale Logistics Solutions.

"Through this collaboration, our company aims to set new benchmarks in cargo handling and contribute to the continued growth and success of Budapest Airport, as an important logistics hub in Europe," he added. The implementa-

tion of the ACS system represents a great leap forward in the commitment of Budapest airport to deliver world-class cargo services and supporting the evolving needs of its stakeholders.

Kale's Air Cargo Community System is the next-generation cargo community platform from the company, which facilitates paperless operations with several enriched features to suit the present

day's air cargo business requirements.

This initiative marks the first implementation of a such a comprehensive ACS system in Hungary, underscoring Kale's international leadership in this domain with successful Air Cargo Community System deployments across North America, India, UAE, and Turkey. Kale has earned recognition from the United Nations for its innovative approach to trade facilitation. 🏠



Monitoring cargo movement through CARDS data platform

Civil Aviation Authority launches a platform to view air cargo movements to and from the UAE. The new platform represents a step towards the UAE's global leadership in this sector, says **Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, UAE, and Chairman, Board of Directors, GCAA.**

CT Bureau

The General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) has launched the Cargo Data Reporting System (CARDS), which provides a view of air cargo movements to, from and through the UAE by analysing the performance of national airlines, ground handlers and express service providers, and sharing results and marketshare with each entity. This helps stakeholders identify strengths and weaknesses and enhances their competitiveness.

"It provides a data repository to monitor challenges and identify obstacles that may face air cargo movements to, from and through the country, which supports the UAE's de-

velopment and economic plans in line with the objectives of the 'We the UAE 2031' vision," Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, UAE, and Chairman, Board of Directors, GCAA, said.

The UAE, the Minister said, enjoys competitive status as one of the most advanced countries in terms of air cargo efficiency, with a strong infrastructure of airports, cargo companies and world-class logistics services.

"In addition to the country's investments in developing its capabilities and potential in this significant sector, the CARDS platform represents a step towards the UAE's international leadership in this sector," he added.



Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri
Minister of Economy, UAE & Chairman, Board of Directors, GCAA

"The platform will contribute to strengthening the existing partnership between the GCAA and representatives of the air cargo sector, by providing them with periodic and updated data on a monthly basis, which helps in decision-making, planning for the future

and enhancing the competitive environment for the civil aviation sector in the country," the Chairman, Board of Directors, GCAA, said.

"We are proud today to launch CARDS, characterised by accuracy, privacy and ease of use. It will allow relevant government agencies to view the cargo movement in the country, which enhances the capabilities of the stake-

“CARDS will contribute to strengthening the existing partnership between the GCAA and representatives of the sector.”

holders to identify the areas of development for air cargo movement," Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Director-General, General Civil Aviation Authority, said.

The new CARDS data platform will be subject to continuous development in a bid to ensure expansion of the scope of the information included in it to include major cities from where goods are exported and imported, and the most categories of goods that are shipped by air in order to provide a picture of air cargo movement and trade exchange in the country, Al Suwaidi added. 🇦🇪



Offering cutting-edge solutions



ECS Group and CMA CGM AIR CARGO has reached an agreement to improve operational efficiency and service quality. We are determined in order to pave the way in air freight transport and offer innovative solutions, says **Adrien Thominet, Executive Chairman, ECS Group**.

 CT Bureau

ECS Group will be appointed as CMA CGM AIR CARGO GSSA, commercialising air freight capacities on flights operated by CMA CGM AIR CARGO. By announcing a worldwide partnership, ECS Group and CMA CGM AIR CARGO aim to redefine industry standards in operational efficiency, service quality, and technological innovation.

They pioneered an innovative solutions and deliver a premier customer experience, while enhancing operational efficiency. With nine flights per week between Paris and China/HKG, on B777 aircraft, ECS Group is committed to providing customers with transparent and efficient access to leading air transport solutions, optimising CMA CGM AIR CARGO's commercial performance and strengthening its presence in the air freight market.

“Collaborating with CMA CGM AIR CARGO represents a unique opportunity to combine ECS Group's expertise in GSSA with CMA CGM AIR CARGO assets. Together, we are determined to pave the way in air freight transport, offering innovative solutions and operational excellence to

This agreement underscores the ECS Group's commitment to innovation and excellence

our clients worldwide,” Adrien Thominet, Executive Chairman, ECS Group, said.

Flexibility and innovation are key drivers of success in this dynamic industry. Through their augmented

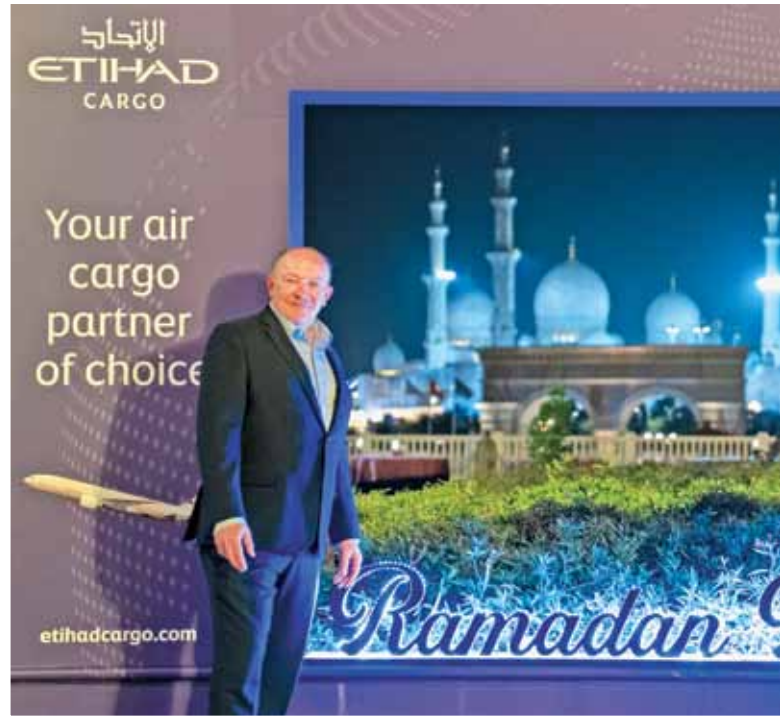


GSSA model, ECS will offer CMA CGM tailor-made cooperation models, ensuring adaptability to market fluctuations and local requirements. These customised solutions will be crafted to meet the needs and challenges of CMA CGM, providing an efficient partnership experience that drives mutual growth and success. In conclusion, ECS Group

and CMA CGM AIR CARGO embark on a new chapter in air freight transport, pushing the boundaries of the industry and delivering cutting-edge solutions and unparalleled customer experiences. This partnership underscores ECS Group's commitment to innovation and excellence in the GSSA sector, reinforcing its position as a global leader. 🌍

Celebrating the spirit of togetherness

Etihaad Cargo held an Iftar for breaking the fast or sawm by having an evening meal together when adhan in Maghrib prayer is sounded during the month of Ramadan. Organised in Abu Dhabi, the occasion was attended by the carrier's close associates and clients.





New air tracking feature to enhance cargo visibility

DP World's Searates users can now track their shipments seamlessly across land, sea, and air, bolstering supply chain resilience and efficiency. This holistic approach ensures that customers have access to all the necessary tools to optimize their supply chain operations efficiently.



Mike Bhaskaran
Group Chief Operating Officer
Digital Technology, DP World

“The new feature is a testament to our loyalty to providing end-to-end solutions.”

CT Bureau

DP World has launched a new air tracking feature to its SeaRates platform, in its latest innovative solution to provide cargo owners with unparalleled real-time visibility of across the entire supply chain.

Designed to meet the ever-evolving demands of the logistics industry, the air tracking feature seamlessly integrates with the online SeaRates platform offering users a comprehensive solution to monitor their shipments across land, sea and now air.

The air tracking feature is a natural extension of Sea-

The new feature is an extension of SeaRates' existing suite of tools, which includes freight tracking, LCS

Rates' existing suite of tools, which includes freight tracking, Logistics Community Systems (LCS), and ship scheduling. This holistic approach ensures customers have access to all the necessary tools to optimise their supply chain operations efficiently.

“With the increasing reliance on air freight solutions to overcome disruptions and challenges in global logistics, SeaRates' Air Tracking feature is a testament to our commitment to providing end-to-end solutions that fit the dynamics of the market,” Mike Bhaskaran, Group Chief Operating Officer, Digital Technology, DP World's said.

“This addition to the SeaRates platform completes our tracking requirements across land, sea, and air. We are impressed with SeaRates constantly innovating and taking onboard the requirements of freight forwarders, helping us to grow our business and provide additional services to our own customers,” Enrico

Rinolfi, Founder & CEO, CADERIZE highlighted.

“We are happy with the progress DP World is making and quite sure that the organisation will continue its remarkable contribution in the global logistic industry,” Syed Aminul Kabir, CEO & MD, May International Trade Services Limited said.

KEY FEATURES

- This holistic approach ensures the clients and customers to have direct access to all the necessary tools to optimise their supply chain operations efficiently.

Host-to-host connection to double air cargo capacity

The API connection with DB Schenker's internal booking engine optimises the booking process, providing agents with direct access to Emirates SkyCargo's schedules, contract tariff rates and available capacity as well as the airliner's global network.



CT Bureau

Emirates SkyCargo, the cargo arm of Emirates airline, has established an Application Programming Interface (API) Connection with DB Schenker, a global leader in logistics service solutions. By leveraging digital tools, Emirates SkyCargo aims to elevate its world-class customer experience and enable the swifter and more efficient flow of international trade.

Signaling its confidence in the essential role air cargo will continue to play in global trade, the airline has made leaps and bounds towards its strategic growth plans to double capacity in the next decade and cement its leading position in global air logistics.

The host-to-host connection with DB Schenker's internal booking engine optimises the air freight booking process, providing agents

with direct access to Emirates SkyCargo's schedules, Standard and Contract Tariff rates and available capacity, as well as the airline's vast global network of over 140 destinations across six continents.

Launching first in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the connection will then launch globally, facilitating trade with key markets including Hong Kong, China, Singapore, India, Germany and the USA. Initially, the service will enable agents to book general cargo, with the possibility of adding other products from Emirates SkyCargo's multi-vertical, industry-leading portfolio in the near future.

In line with the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33) Emirates SkyCargo is on a journey to grow Dubai's position as the world's largest logistics hub, expanding its fleet and network to better serve global customers. In Q1, Emirates SkyCargo leased two Boeing

Host-to-host link with DB Schenker's internal booking engine, optimises the booking process

747-400Fs, unlocking immediate additional cargo space in response to high customer demand. These aircraft join its fleet of 11 Boeing 777Fs and 251 passenger aircraft.

Further expansion is on the horizon, with four new 777-200Fs expected in 2024 and a fifth aircraft in 2025. This order is in addition to 310 wide-body passenger aircraft that Emirates has on the order book, which will see deliveries of new aircraft, and new cargo capacity, through to 2035. 🚀



Celebrating Ramadan

Turkish Cargo hosted an *iftar* for its clients and business associates in Dubai recently. The event was an opportunity for clients and professionals to gather and have an evening meal at the time of *adhan* on the last day of the holy fast.





Logistics centre launched by Pharmatrade in KEZAD

The company is investing to ensure the availability of pharmaceutical and medical device products to all patients and to avoid shortages of life-saving or non-life-saving medicines, says **Konstantinos Petridis, Managing Partner, Pharmatrade LLC.**



CT Bureau

KEZAD Group and the UAE-based Pharmatrade, have opened Pharmatrade's Abu Dhabi Logistics Centre, which will ensure uninterrupted medical supplies to Abu Dhabi and Al Ain. The new logistics centre will ramp up the storage and distribution of its pharmaceutical and medical device range of products to serve the UAE's healthcare sector.

The expansion of its business over the past 13 years, since the opening of its logistics centre in Dubai Investment Park 1, prompted Pharmatrade, headquartered in Dubai and one of the largest companies in the healthcare sector, to invest in a new logistics centre in KEZAD.

The Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi (KEZAD)

is the UAE's largest operator of fully-integrated economic zones and value added business services, staff accommodation and industrial real estate solutions.

KEZAD Logistics Park Phase V, which houses Pharmatrade's Logistics Centre is a cluster of temperature-controlled, Grade A industrial warehouse facilities with modern specifications that offer several different configurations to meet client needs and boost logistics efficiency.

"Through our KEZAD Logistics Centre we will be covering the supply of pharmaceutical and medical device products to Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, for both government as well as private sector. We consider it our prime responsibility to provide our principals wide geographical coverage, rapid delivery, sufficient com-

pany stock, and competitive credit policy," Konstantinos Petridis, Managing Partner, Pharmatrade LLC, asserted.

Direct access to Khalifa Port and Abu Dhabi Airport allows it to source their raw materials from markets

"We established this logistics centre in KEZAD because of the integrated infrastructure and the flexibility of warehouse design, which enhance our aspirations for further expansion, with the opportunities to reach new customers thanks to KEZAD's strategic location

and integrated transportation and logistics network. We are continuously investing to ensure the availability of pharmaceutical and medical device products to all patients in the UAE and to avoid any shortages of life-saving or non-life-saving drugs," he added.

Pharmatrade is a trusted brand in the supply and distribution of lifesaving pharma and medical equipment. Their expansion into KEZAD's warehousing portfolio gives them the ability to reach their consumers using our state-of-the-art infrastructure. Efficient and congestion-free access to Khalifa Port and Abu Dhabi International Airport allows companies within our pharmaceutical ecosystem to cost-effectively source their raw materials and supplies from international markets," Mohamed Al Khadar Al Ahmed, KEZAD Group, said. 🌟

Bahrain seeks to be among top 20 logistics centres

Express air cargo area will contribute to enhancing the capacity of larger cargo flows and volumes at BIA and doubling its ability to meet the increasing local and regional demand. The first phase has been completed. BIA is a major centre for DHL Middle East and North Africa and other freight firms for several years.

CT Bureau

The Kingdom of Bahrain aims to provide high shipping capabilities and advanced technologies to provide air freight handling services with effective efficiency and movement as it seeks to take position amongst the top 20 countries in the logistics sector, increase flights to 70 destinations, and allow higher air cargo movement, Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister for Transportation and Telecommunications, said.

At the same time, infrastructure work is in progress at Bahrain International Airport (BIA) to form a comprehensive and advanced global logistics centre. Construction work in the express air cargo area located west of the passengers' terminal in BIA has been completed, he added.

"The new 58,000 square metres area has a capacity of an estimated 1.3 million metric tonnes and consists of warehouses and aircraft parking," he said. "To deal with air freight movement and rapid e-commerce, we are working to set up a comprehensive and advanced logistics centre."



Mohammed Al Kaabi
Minister for Transportation and Telecommunications

Regarding the express air cargo area, Al Kaabi explained it will contribute to enhancing the capacity of larger flows and larger volumes of cargo at BIA and doubling the airport's ability to meet the increasing local and regional demand. "The first phase of the express cargo area, which measures 59 per cent of the total area, has been completed.

"The area includes 10 warehouses, equipped with 19 units,

in addition to a distinguished handling service, which includes two warehouses for the international shipping company FedEx, which will operate 9,000 sq. mts., for 10 years, a joint handling facility, and a warehouse for the Bahrain Duty Free Company," he asserted.

"The second phase of the project includes 12 warehouses

“To deal with air cargo flow and rapid e-commerce, we are working to set up a comprehensive and advanced logistics centre.”

with a total area of 6,000 square metres, to enhance the capabilities of BIA, thus contributing to attracting more air cargo companies to the Kingdom," Al Kaabi said. Also, there are seven industrial zones covering 14.5 million square metres and featuring an investment of BD3.7 billion in the Kingdom.

In this regard, "the Bahrain Airport Company is negotiat-

ing with one of the global air freight firms to rent space in the express air freight area. There is a blueprint that we are working on to meet by 2026," he averred.

Regarding the airlines that begin operations at BIA, he confirmed there are 28 companies, including 13 from the GCC, three airlines from Arab nations, in addition to 11 Euro-

pean and Asian airlines and an African airline.

As for air freight firms, he said BIA is a major distribution centre for DHL Middle East and North Africa for 40 years, in addition to many of 13 air freight companies. Shura Council members were notified about other written responses presented by them during yesterday's weekly session. 🇲🇵

Sharing traditions and partnerships at **NAFL *iftar***

The National Association of Freight and Logistics (NAFL) hosted an *iftar* for business associates and friends in Dubai recently. The event was an opportunity for close partners and members of the freight forwarding association to come together to share an evening meal.





Debating the future logistics, freight forwarding

Hundreds of leading industry professionals will come on to a common platform at the Active Freight Network's 7th Annual Global Meeting, which will be held in Dubai from May 23, 2024. The meet is regarded as a platform to set standards in logistics policies and regulations, says **Abeer Mahran, Founder, AFN**.

CT Bureau

Freight forwarders from around the world will get to experience the future of freight forwarding at Active Freight Network's (AFN) event to be held in Dubai in late May in 2024. AFN's 7th Annual Global Meeting in Dubai, scheduled between 23-25 May 2024, will be held at JA Ocean View Hotel in Dubai.

The special event for all freight forwarders will witness the participation of a host of speakers. Dawit Woubishet, official representative, FIATA will also attend the global meeting, to answer all concerns and provide solutions about fluctuations in the shipping and cargo industry along with exclusive news about FIATA activities in upcoming months.



Woubishet is the Air Freight Institute Director for the past over two years. FIATA is a non-governmental, membership-based organisation. It is regarded as a reference source on international policies and regulations governing the freight forwarding and logistics industry.

As a leading platform in the logistics sector with a wealth of experience in freight forwarding, AFN is proud to present an event that promises to set new standards in industry innovation and collaboration. The AFN 2024 in Dubai is like-



Dawit Woubishet
Official Representative, FIATA

“AFN will present an event to set standards in industry innovation and collaboration.”

ly to bring together industry experts, seasoned professionals, and visionaries in the field of logistics for an immersive experience designed to showcase the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in



Abeer Mahran
Founder, AFN

“It will help forwarders expand network and explore collaboration opportunities.”

logistics and freight forwarding. With a focus on driving operational excellence and fostering strategic partnerships, this annual meeting is poised to redefine the way professionals engage and connect in the

dynamic world of international supply chains.

The event will introduce candidates to a world of knowledge sharing, networking opportunities, and groundbreaking insights that will shape the future of freight forwarding. With a commitment to excellence and a dedication to driving positive change in the industry, AFN invites leading forwarders to be a part of this transformative event that will propel the logistics sector into a new era of innovation and success.

“The event will help forwarders connect with business leaders, and partners to expand their network and explore collaboration opportunities,” Abeer Mahran, Founder, AFN, said. She brings an understanding of global supply chains and logistics ops to her role as a leader and innovator. Through her vision and industry insights, she has established AFN as a hub for industry professionals to engage, learn, and drive innovation. 🌍



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Intermodal transport cuts emissions, optimises costs

In the UAE, the government invests in intermodal transport infrastructure. Intermodal transport is a promising solution for the Middle East supply chain industry. This apart, there is an increasing demand for sustainable transportation solutions to drive the market.

The Middle East has a growing economy and with its rapidly expanding trade network, the market status is only set to rise. This growth has strained the region's transportation infra and has led to calls for sustainable and efficient ways to move freight.

One solution that is gaining traction is intermodal transport. The intermodal freight transportation market was valued at US\$41.16 billion in 2022, and the same is likely to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.2

“Investment by UAE is likely to help reduce reliance on road transport and promote sustainable freight flow.”

per cent to reach US\$117.76 billion by the year 2029. Intermodal transport moves freight through air, road and sea, including the increasing demand for sustainable transportation solutions to drive the market.

Sustainable transportation solutions are gaining importance as businesses and governments look for ways and means to reduce their environmental impact. Intermodal transport is a sustainable option than road freight, as it can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

❖ **Transportation costs:** Intermodal transport can reduce costs by taking advantage of each mode's strengths. For example, road transport is an efficient way to move freight over shorter distances, while rail is more efficient for longer distances. Businesses can use a combination of modes to reduce costs

❖ **Increased efficiency:** Intermodal transport can increase efficiency of freight flow by reducing the number of times freight is shifted between air, rail, road and sea. This can reduce delays and improve the flow of goods through the supply chain

❖ **Improved visibility:** Intermodal transport can help to improve supply chain visibility by providing businesses with real-time information about the location of their freight

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

❖ **Greenhouse gas emissions:** Intermodal transport can help cut emissions by controlling the need for road transport. Road transport is a source of emissions, which impacts the environment

❖ **Improved air quality:** Intermodal transport can help improve air quality by reducing road transport. This is important in the Middle East, where air quality is often poor.

❖ **Noise pollution:** Intermodal transport can help reduce noise pollution by reducing the number of trucks on the road as trucks are a source of noise pollution.



In the UAE, the government invests in intermodal transport infra, such as developing a new rail network. This investment is expected to help to reduce the region's reliance on road transport and promote sustainable freight movement.

The railway will help the UAE achieve its ambitious industrial development goals in the coming decades, which aims to increase the industrial sector's contribution to the economy from AED133 billion to AED300 billion by 2031. The railway will provide an efficient and sustainable way to transport freight, which will help reduce costs and improve the environment. It will help connect the UAE's industrial zones, making it easier for businesses to operate and grow.

The GCC countries are also investing in intermodal transport infrastructure. For example, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is developing a new sea-air freight hub in Jeddah. This hub will help to connect the region with global markets and promote sustainable freight movement. The Jeddah Islamic Port, for example, has expanded Gate 9 and laid the foundation stone for the largest integrated logistics area in

the Middle East at a cost of SR 1.3 billion.

There is a growing demand for intermodal transport in the Middle East and North Africa region. This is due to its expanding trade network and need to reduce environmental impact of freight movement. Intermodal transport is a promising solution for the Middle East supply chain industry. It offers several economic and environmental benefits and is becoming increasingly popular in the region. Businesses that can adopt intermodal transport will be well-positioned to succeed.



Soham Chokshi
CEO & Co-Founder
Shipy

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

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ACCREDITATIONS



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AI can identify potential supply chain disruptions

Advanced technology can transform cargo transportation and contribute to a highly advanced and transparent ecosystem. AI can also be used to maximise cargo space utilisation, scrutinise air waybills to check for sanctions, enhance safety, and security.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning are set to revolutionise the industry as they have the potential to augment cargo transportation, forecast meteorological conditions, and assist in inventory control, all of which contribute towards an advanced ecosystem. Proactive AI can analyze data in real-time to identify potential supply chain disruptions. These technologies are anticipated to streamline processes and mitigate errors by automating a portion of the paperwork associated with air freight.

FUTURE OF AI IN ME

AI has the potential to revolutionise the Middle Eastern air cargo industry by streamlining processes, optimising capacity, and enhancing revenue management. From automated document pro-

AI extracts key information, converts it into digital format, and eliminates the potential for human error

cessing to AI-powered cargo management systems, these advancements promise significant efficiency gains and a more transparent trading ecosystem. While challenges like financial limitations and employee resistance exist, the potential benefits of AI are undeniable, paving the way for a future of smarter and



more efficient air cargo operations in the Middle East.

EMERGING TRENDS

Automated Document Processing: AI can streamline documentation process by automatically scanning paper air waybills, which serve as a receipt of goods by an airline. It extracts key information, converts it into digital format, and eliminates the potential for human error. AI can also be used to maximise cargo space utilisation, scrutinise air waybills to check for sanctions, enhance safety, and security.

Saudia Cargo embraces AI: Saudia Cargo is collaborating with Revenue Technology Services and has adopted cutting-edge technological solutions that were rolled out with a focus on the creation of sophisticated AI and ML technologies. These solutions include:

- **RTS Velocity:** It is a revenue management solution,

designed to streamline cargo operations by forecasting capacity, demand, and over-booking scenarios

- **AcceleRate:** It helps in decision-making related to pricing, which takes into account competition, customer value, and price elasticity to suggest the best pricing strategies
- **Foresight:** It aids in revenue planning, sales budgeting and empowers Saudia Cargo to forecast accurate annual revenue goals and fine-tune air freight and truck schedules

AI alters Etihad Cargo ops: The partnership between Etihad Cargo and Speedcargo will be to streamline cargo operations and enhance freight capacity utilisation on flights with the help of AI.

It will be first to implement these solutions in Singapore, with plans to extend its application throughout Etihad

Cargo's network. dnata will work with Speedcargo to enhance cargo services for Etihad at Singapore Changi Airport. By optimising cargo distribution across flights and ULD container arrangements in line with internal loading regulations, Etihad Cargo can enhance capacity by 3,000 tonnes annually.



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

SAL Saudi Logistics to build new air cargo terminal in Madinah



SAL Saudi Logistics Services Company has leased a land plot at Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah to construct and develop a new air cargo terminal, a company statement stated. The pact

was signed with Taiba Airports Operation Company, the company stated to the Saudi stock exchange. The 16-year lease is for a land plot measuring 3,500 square metres plus 4,000 square metres for three years for expansion.

The company is expected to invest 12 million Saudi riyals (US\$3.2 million) in developing the new terminal. SAL faced significant challenges at its birth, primarily due to its lack of brand awareness, the statement added.

GACA announces record 2023 air traffic performance

General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) has announced outstanding progress in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's air traffic performance in 2023 with growth in number of flights, passenger numbers and movement of cargo. The Saudi Aviation Strategy is transforming the Saudi aviation ecosystem to become the number one aviation sector in the Middle East by 2030, enabled by Vision 2030 and in line with the Kingdom's National Transport and



Logistics Strategy. The Strategy is unlocking US\$100 billion in private and government investment across the Kingdom's airports, airlines, and aviation support services. The Strategy will extend KSA's connectivity from 99 to 250 destinations across 29 airports, establishing two global long-haul connecting hubs, and hiking air cargo capacity to 4.5 million tonnes. The Saudi Aviation Strategy is led by the KSA's aviation regulator, GACA stated.

FedEx records revenue decline by 2% at US\$10.1 billion

FedEx saw its profits improve in the third quarter of its fiscal year despite revenues coming under pressure due to weak market conditions. The express giant saw its fiscal year Q3 revenues decline 2% to US\$21.7 billion, but operating income improved by 19% on last year to US\$1.2 billion and net income was up 14% to US\$879 million. Looking at third-quarter divisional performance, FedEx Express saw revenues decline 2% to US\$10.1 billion, but operating income was up 96% to US\$233 million. The company's share price was up last week due to its better-than-

expected profit performance. FedEx said the improved profit performance was a result of its

DRIVE cost-cutting scheme that aims to reduce expenses by US\$4 billion.



KSA, Bahrain sign transportation agreements



Kingdoms of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have signed two agreements focusing on the future of transportation, road maintenance and safety. The MoUs aim to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the transportation and logistics services sector, a report stated. Representing their respective sides during the signing were Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser, Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, KSA, and Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, Bahrain, and Ebrahim bin Hasan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works, Bahrain.

Bahrain exports cross US\$892 million in Feb



Kingdom of Bahrain's exports of products of national origin increased by 17 per cent to BD336 million (US\$892 million) in February 2024, compared to BD287 million for the same month in 2023. The top 10 countries accounted for 74 per cent of the total export value. KSA, with BD93 million (28%), ranked first among countries where Bahrain's national products were exported. The UAE was second with BD43 million (13%) and the USA was third with BD31 million (9%), said the Information & Government Authority (iGA). Unwrought aluminium alloys were top exported products with BD92 million (27%), followed by agglomerated iron ores.

Munich Airport leads with 6.6% rise in cargo traffic

The airport was the only German hub to increase freight traffic last year. The south German gateway registered a year-on-year increase of 6.6%, whereas total airfreight volume in Germany fell by 7.1, according to German Airports Association figures. Munich's freight totalled 284,000 tonnes, with a significant share attributable to belly cargo, which grew by 11 per cent. Direct connections to China resumed in the middle of last year, while a new route to Bengaluru in India and



four weekly flights to Taipei were well received, especially by Bavarian exporters. This year, new routes will be added to Seattle, Johannesburg, and Vietnam, and additional flights to Beijing and Osaka, the airport authority predicted. Meanwhile, month on month figures for January and February 2024 rose by 6.5 per cent and 10.8 per cent, respectively and overall freight at Munich is now back to almost 90 per cent of the pre-pandemic level. DHL Express is also due to open a new freight building in the summer and there is plenty of space for future expansion in the cargo area, stated the airport authority.

Airbus expects to grow air cargo market by 42%

Airbus is to go into partnership with experts from CHAMP Cargosystems, Fraport, KLM Cargo, Kuehne+Nagel and Swissport in a new tech initiative, the plane-maker announced at the recently concluded IATA World Cargo Symposium.

OpenCargoLab aims “to drive digital, resource-saving concepts, contributing to more resilient and efficient airfreight processes”, it stated. Airbus expects the global freight market to grow by 50 per cent by 2042, while Asia-Pacific regions would be a promising market for air freight. OpenCargoLab will also contribute to the A350Fs design and development. The order book for the next-generation freighter, unveiled over



two years ago with 50 firm orders from nine customers. Airbus plans to expand its market share in the segment. OpenCargoLab will evaluate digital solutions such as AR and to optimise data connectivity in general and ferrying dangerous goods in particular. A test

centre for validating new concepts is being set up at Airbus' Cargo Competence site in Bremen, Germany, for loading systems or cargo door actuation systems. It will also include a replica of the A350F fuselage with a large cargo door by this year-end.

CargoAi launches new feature, revolutionises spot cargo booking

CargoAi complements its existing marketplace and API solutions for forwarders and airlines by launching a new feature named air freight load board. The new feature is designed to empower freight forwarders and carriers alike, streamline the process of finding and securing available spot cargo with ease and efficiency. With the Air Freight Load Board, airlines can now access a database of available freight with detailed cargo specifications, directly in their CargoMART Airline App.

“At CargoAi, we are committed to driving innovation and

INDUSTRY FIRST
Advanced Rate Management with Direct Booking
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delivering unparalleled value to our customers,” said Matt Petot, CEO, CargoAi. “With the launch of Air Freight Load Board, we complete our value proposition allowing forwarders to manage

spot requests across airlines. We are continuing our mission to revolutionise the way businesses connect and secure cargo, empowering them to find and win more volume with ease.

Fits Cargo ties up with WebCargo for enhanced booking, interline services



Sri Lanka-based Fits Cargo, which combines physical airline operations and interline pacts with 160 carriers, has joined Freightos WebCargo online booking and payment platform. Fits Cargo flies 4 million kilograms of air freight year and has

a direct presence in Dubai, India, Hong Kong and the Maldives, along with general sales agencies and cargo sales agencies in more than 70 countries, a statement stated.

Swissport begins ground handling at Palma de Mallorca Airport

Ground services provider, Swissport has begun ground handling at Spain's third-largest airport, Palma de Mallorca, Dirk Goovaerts, Chief Executive, Central Europe, Middle East and Africa region, global cargo chair, Swissport. According to the handler, Swissport's expansion into Mallorca complements its strong footprint in the Spanish air freight sector. It also operates five air cargo centres in Barcelona, Madrid, Malaga, Valencia and Zaragoza.



Movements

HOTPACK UAE



Abdul Jebbar P. B., has been appointed as the Founding VC, Paper and Tissue Business Group under the Dubai Chamber of Commerce. His appointment comes because of his industry expertise within the packaging sector, a release stated.

UPS Turkey, MEA



Tolga Biga has joined as the Head, Türkiye and MEA Country Cluster, including Türkiye, the Middle East, and Africa, at UPS. He will be responsible for driving business development and strategy. Tolga joined UPS in 2002 in Turkey.

SKYTEAM CARGO International role



John Engelaan has joined as the Vice President, Cargo, of SkyTeam Cargo. Before taking up the new post, he was the VP, Global Fleet, Swissport, where he was responsible for management of 60,000 GSE assets across 45 countries.

SMARTLYNX Europe



Jan Belina has joined as Deputy Chief Executive, ACMI, Cargo, and SmartLynx Airlines. He has 20 years of experience in the aviation industry. He earlier held positions as COO and accountable manager at Czech airline Smartwings.

JETTAINER Europe



Gert Pfeifer has been appointed as GM, Europe, at Jettainer, where he held various roles in IT and operations. He was the Head, Operational Excellence, Supply Chain and was responsible for fleet management, ULD engineering.

AIR PARTNER Global



Oliver Giesen has joined as the Head, On-board Courier, Global, Air Partner. He will be responsible for identifying opportunities to drive Air Partner's OBC division's growth and focusing on aerospace, automotive, and pharma industries.

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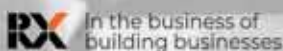
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