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April 2025

CARGO talk

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for cargo drones

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launches AI-driven
trade facilitation tool



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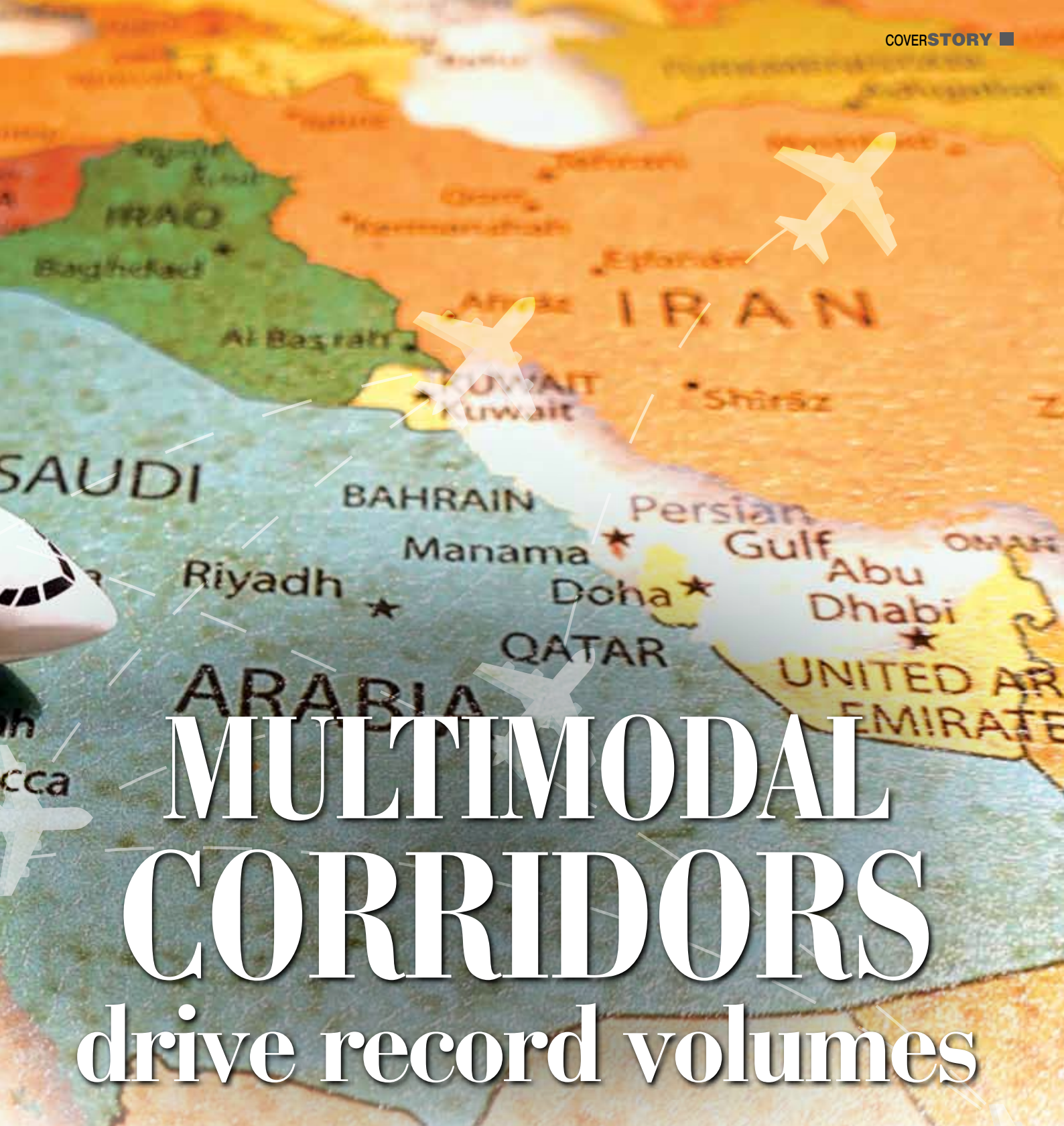


Focus in Gulf region is on busiest cargo routes for various products ferried via air and combined channels. Multimodal logistics corridors experience highest volumes. Doha, Dubai and Riyadh hold on as strongest points followed by Istanbul where more destinations have been reported in terms of air carriers.

 Dr. Shehara Fernando

The Middle East and Türkiye serve as vital trade arteries, linking Asia, Europe, and Africa through some of the busiest cargo routes of the world. Türkiye's location is a bridge between East and West, making it an important player in global supply chains, enhancing trade flows across continents.

Despite disruptions, these air cargo routes have demonstrated exceptional



MULTIMODAL CORRIDORS

drive record volumes

resilience. Investments in smart logistics, AI-powered supply chain management, and green shipping initiatives have strengthened their efficiency. Türkiye's Middle Corridor project and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 logistics reforms reinforce regional connectivity.

With ongoing digital trade corridors and sustainable shipping advancements, the Middle East and Türkiye continue to drive seamless global trade, ensuring uninterrupted commerce, while embracing

With ongoing digital trade corridors, the Middle East and Türkiye continue to drive seamless global trade, ensuring uninterrupted commerce, while embracing sustainability

innovation and sustainability. When it comes to multimodal logistics, the UAE plays a pivotal role in international trade positioned as it is on the crossroads of major cargo routes linking Asia, Europe, and Africa. Its advanced multimodal logistics network—integrating air, sea, land, and rail transport—ensures seamless cargo movement thereby enhancing supply chain efficiency.

Key ports such as Jebel Ali (UAE), Jeddah Islamic Port (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)



Hamad Port (Qatar), and Türkiye's Ambarlı and Mersin ports handle massive trade volumes, powered by advanced logistics infrastructure. With cutting-edge free zones and state-of-the-art airports, the UAE serves as a vital zone for global trade and transshipment. By leveraging smart logistics, sustainability initiatives, and AI solutions, the UAE secures the busiest air cargo corridors and fortifies global trade resilience, reinforcing its status as a leader in logistics and supply chain innovation.

The Middle East region is pivotal in international trade due to its strategic location. The busiest cargo routes, including the Suez Canal and Gulf shipping lanes, serve as essential routes for the movement of goods. These shipping routes ensure timely deliveries and cost-effective transport, thereby boosting economic growth and strengthening trade relationships.

The state-of-the-art infrastructure and highly efficient logistics networks enable seamless and effective cargo movements across the region. This connectivity not only enhances the market access but also fosters business development and innovation, positioning the Middle East region as a significant hub for international commerce. The integration of advanced technologies streamlines operations and improves supply chain resilience.

Major airports in ME dominate in volumes

The Middle East is a critical hub for global air cargo, with major airports handling several tonnes annually. Dubai-Frankfurt, Doha-Shanghai, Riyadh-London, and Abu Dhabi-Mumbai are routes for manufacturing and consumer markets. The Jebel Ali



Abid Hamza
GM, Business Development, Fast Logistics Cargo FZCO

“The Middle East is a critical hub for global air cargo, with major airports handling several tonnes annually.”

Port-DWC corridor in Dubai is the busiest, facilitating seamless sea-to-air cargo transfer. King Abdullah Economic City Port-Riyadh Dry Port and Duqm Special Economic Zone also see more volumes.

Middle East plays vital role in linking continents

The Middle East's cargo routes play a vital role in linking continents and facilitating the movement of goods. Hamad International Airport in Qatar and Abu Dhabi International Airport contribute leveraging technology to handle vast cargo volumes. Air cargo is dominated by DXB and DWC in the UAE. The Dubai Logistics Corridor integrates air, sea, and land transport, linking Jebel Ali Port with DWC. Projects such as Etihad Rail are all set to strengthen freight transport.



Razmal Assen
Executive Director, Scanwell Logistics

“The Dubai Logistics Corridor integrates air, sea, and land transport, linking Jebel Ali Port with DWC.”

Multimodal corridors have vital role in trade network

e-commerce shipments have surged between the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Key routes include Dubai-London, Doha-Frankfurt, and Riyadh-Shanghai, driven by rapid delivery demands. The ME is a logistics hub, with DXB and DWC leading in



Samantak Dasgupta
General Manager
Cozmo Logistics

“The ME is a logistics hub, with DXB and DWC leading in cargo throughput followed by Doha & Riyadh airports.”

cargo throughput, followed by DOH and Riyadh airport. These hubs offer advanced infra and seamless connectivity. Multimodal logistics corridors play vital role in the region's trade network.

Supply chain efficiency aligns with shipper needs

Doha and Dubai rank among top 20 airports for handling cargo. They are followed by Istanbul. Over the coming years, growth is likely in Abu Dhabi and Riyadh as major carriers will undergo fleet expansion. The region is situated between



Glyn Hughes
Director General
TIACA

“Over the coming years, growth is likely in Abu Dhabi and Riyadh as major carriers will undergo fleet expansion.”

Asia, Europe and Africa with linkage to Southwest Pacific and the USA. Supply chain efficiency aligns with shipper needs and balancing speed requires integrated solutions across multiple modes.

Logistics hubs in KSA fortify multimodal ops

DXB, DWC, and DOH remain dominant in air cargo volumes, while AUH and RUH also play vital roles in regional handling. Major trade lanes connect the Middle East to Europe, Africa, and Asia, with DXB and DOH serving as crucial transit hubs. The Jebel Ali-DWC corridor are enhancing global connectivity. In KSA, logistics hubs in Dammam and Riyadh are strengthening multimodal operations, by increasing links to Africa and Asia.



A.S. Farhan
Asst. General Manager,
Freight & Logistics
Al Rais Cargo Agencies

“Major trade lanes connect the ME to Europe, Africa, and Asia, with DXB and DOH as major transit hubs.”

Istanbul an emerging hub by linking ME & Europe

DWC serves as a strategic link between Asia, Europe, and Africa. Riyadh and Jeddah airports manage KSA's cargo network. Istanbul is an emerging hub by linking Europe and the ME. Perishables, especially from Africa, are a major import commodity. E-commerce shipments



Mazhar Marzook
GSA Cargo Manager,
UAE, ATTA Cargo &
GSA: Ethiopian Airlines &
China Airlines


“General cargo & auto parts flow in China-Middle East-Africa corridor, while oil & gas flow into UAE and KSA.”

from China, Europe, and the USA are in high demand. General cargo and auto parts flow in China-Middle East-Africa corridor, while oil and gas cargo flow into UAE and KSA. 🇸🇦



Middle East warehouses go **high-tech** with AI and automation

While Middle East is evolving into global logistics hub, supply chains are become more complex and businesses are integrating solutions to optimise efficiency and improve security. More firms are adopting WMS, AI, IoT, blockchain, and robotics to change logistics landscape.

 Dr. Shehara Fernando

The Middle Eastern businesses are rapidly integrating automation into their warehouse operations. Many companies use Warehouse Management Systems (WMS) combined with IoT sensors and AI-driven analytics to enhance inventory tracking, reduce human errors and improve real-time visibility. Robotics is also gaining traction, particularly in order fulfillment and material handling, improving speed and accuracy, while reducing labour costs.

Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs) and robotic arms are now common in warehouses, ensuring seamless logistics operations across the region. Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are revolutionising supply chain decision-making in the Middle East. Companies are leveraging predictive analytics for demand forecasting, route optimisation, and warehouse efficiency improvements.

AI-powered insights help the businesses to anticipate market fluctuations, reduce waste, and optimise transportation networks. With real-time data analysis, the logistics companies can minimise delays, manage risks and enhance overall supply chain resilience thereby ensuring cost-effective and sustainable operations. Technological advancements such

as blockchain, autonomous vehicles, and the cargo drones are redefining logistics and security. Blockchain enhances transparency by creating decentralised ledgers, ensuring secure and tamper-proof record-keeping, among others.

Autonomous trucks and cargo drones are being tested for last-mile delivery, reducing delivery times and improving efficiency. Robotic solutions, including

With real-time data analysis, the firms can minimise delays, manage risks, enhance resilience and ensure cost-effective and sustainable operations

AI-powered surveillance, are enhancing warehouse security, preventing theft and unauthorised access. These innovations are helping the businesses in the Middle East region build an efficient, secure, and technologically advanced logistics ecosystem, aligning with the region's vision for digital transformation.

New tech transforms warehouse operations

The level of digitalisation and usage of new technologies in a warehouse varies from operation to operation. Seen from the eyes of a 3PL company, the usage of such technologies depend on duration of warehousing contract and scalability of an operation. All technologies have purpose to optimise a warehouse operations. WMS enables the management of warehousing tasks. The new solutions are often AI optimised so they continue to enhance the overall operational process.



Axel Herzhauser
Global CEO
We Freight

“The new solutions are often AI optimised so they continue to enhance the overall operational process.”



BI-predictive analytics perks up supply chain

Business Intelligence (BI) tools analyse data and generate actionable optimisations for our inventory management, improvements for order fulfillment processes and assists us to make informed decisions that boost productivity and reduce costs. Our new WMS will become integral to our operations, providing real-time visibility into inventory levels, help streamline packing processes, and ensure accurate order tracking allowing accuracy in our warehouse operations.



Derrick Pimenta
Business Development
Manager, Orient Cargo

“Real-time monitoring with BI-driven analytics must to achieve the enhanced service delivery levels.”

WMS streamlines warehouse operations

At Compass Logistics International, we leverage technology to enhance operational efficiency and optimise supply chain processes. While we use WMS to streamline aspects of warehouse operations, our focus remains on continuous improve-



Asif Iqbal
Warehouse Operations
Manager, Compass
Logistics

“Adapting advanced solutions in order to meet evolving warehouse industry demands.”

ment and adopting advanced solutions to meet evolving industry demands. At the same time, we do not utilise IoT sensors, AI-driven analytics, or robotics, we are evaluating the emerging technologies.

Drones, robotic solutions transforming logistics

Integration and automation of warehouse operations through WMS, IoT, AI, and robotics presents an evolution in SCM. Momentum Logistics is leveraging our existing tech to achieve accuracy and enhanced productivity. AI, ML, and predictive analytics' integrate supply chain operations and decision-making processes. Adoption of blockchain, autonomous vehicles, drones, and robotic solutions are transforming logistics and security across the supply chain.



Daniel Caton
Managing Director,
Momentum Logistics

“Adoption of blockchain, autonomous vehicles, drones and robotic solutions transform logistics.”

Smart automation optimise resource allocation

Today's supply chain is evolving fast, and warehouses are rising to meet demands. Embracing digital transformation, modern warehouses are replacing outdated methods with tech-powered systems. With AI and smart automation, teams now forecast de-



Rizwan Kareem
Director, Air Freight
Operations, ATS World

“Blend of digital knowledge and human insight ushers in an era of super-efficient warehousing.”

mand and optimise resource allocation. Robotics and IoT sensors boost efficiency and resilience. This blend of digital knowledge and human insight ushers in an era of super-efficient warehousing. 🚀

UAE advances air corridor mapping for cargo drones

UAE has launched air corridor mapping and development of regulatory framework for piloted and autonomous cargo drones. Aim is to integrate air mobility solutions into the nation's logistics network. The mapping and regulatory development may be completed within 20 months, His Excellency Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, DG, UAE, GCAA.

CT Bureau

Aerial corridors will connect key international airports in the UAE, establishing a seamless integration of cargo drone into the urban environment. This ambitious initiative, a collaboration between the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) and the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC) with Technology Innovation Institute (TII) and ASPIRE.

The mapping and regulatory development are expected to be completed within 20 months. "Air corridor mapping for piloted and autonomous air taxis and drones is a crucial milestone that will enable the seamless implementation of Advanced Air Mobility into the UAE's infrastructure," His Excellency Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Director General, UAE, GCAA, said.

This network would alleviate congestion and contribute to sustainable development

"This transformative collaboration with GCAA is reshaping the future of urban transportation. By advancing airspace management and integrating piloted and autonomous cargo drones, we are not only enhancing urban connectivity but also driving sustainable and accessible mobility solutions that will benefit future generations," informed Dr. Najwa Aaraj, CEO, TII.

"Addressing real-time urban mobility challenges through innovative solutions like air taxis and drones is a major step forward. This initiative directly supports sustainable economic growth by creating a flexible and diverse transport system that eases pressure on urban infrastructure and fosters smarter, more resilient cities," Stephane Timpano, Chief Executive Officer, ASPIRE, disclosed.



"This initiative ensures safe and efficient adoption of air mobility, delivering transformative solutions to urban transport and paving the way for a smarter, more connected future," he added. This network is expected to alleviate congestion, improve connectivity, and contribute to sustainable development.

"Addressing real-time urban mobility challenges through innovative solutions like air taxis and drones is a major step forward. This initiative directly supports sustainable economic growth by creating a flexible and diverse transport system that eases pressure on urban infrastructure and fosters smarter, more resilient cities," Stephane Timpano, Chief Executive Officer, ASPIRE, disclosed.

ban infrastructure and fosters smarter, more resilient cities," Stephane Timpano, Chief Executive Officer, ASPIRE, disclosed.

Aerial corridors to be set up in will boost logistical efficiency through faster cargo delivery

"At TII, we are developing advanced AI-powered control, vision, and communication algorithms for autonomous systems that enable real-time decision-making for air taxis and drones," Professor Enrico Natalizio, Chief Researcher of the Autonomous Robotics Research Center, TII, said. "Having mastered this technology, we can propose methodologies for the AAM corridor design to optimise routes, ensure collision avoidance, and integrate seamlessly with urban airspace," he added.

UAE'S VISION

Aerial corridors to be set up in the UAE will boost logistical efficiency through faster cargo delivery and enhance accessibility to locations across the country. The integration of the cargo drones will redefine logistics, making it more efficient and eco-friendly.

Highlights

- Corridors connect key UAE airports for seamless cargo drone integration
- Reducing congestion and enhancing urban connectivity

Tech impact

- AI-driven systems for safe and efficient airspace management
- Boosting eco-friendly, smart logistics solutions

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Fresh-cut flowers: Air cargo's most perishable freight

Fresh-cut flowers are among the most delicate and perishable goods in the cargo industry. In the Middle East, major carriers transport millions of flowers from Ecuador, Kenya, Ethiopia, and South America across the world. The carrier is instrumental in ferrying as many as 96 tonnes of flowers from Nairobi every week.

CT Bureau

Air cargo carriers of the Middle East connect various continents by expanding their operations to meet the requirements for fresh-cut flowers. The Middle East market remains an indispensable link in the floriculture supply chain, supporting economic growth in flower-producing regions and meeting global demand.

Ethiad Cargo has been instrumental in transporting 96 tonnes of fresh flowers from Nairobi every week. Kenya is one of the largest exporters of cut flowers globally. The carrier's advanced cool chain solutions, including its IATA CEIV-certified FreshForward product, ensure that flowers such as big-head roses, Cappuccino, Cabaret, Topaz, and



Stanislas Brun
Vice President
Cargo, Etihad Cargo



Mark Drusch
Chief Cargo Officer
Qatar Airways

Roseberry among others remain fresh throughout transit.

"Etihad Cargo is proud to support the floriculture industry, which plays a role in linking producers in Africa with consumers worldwide. Through our extensive network, advanced facilities, and dedicated expertise, we are committed to connecting key markets and supporting the growth of global trade," said Stanislas Brun, Vice President, Cargo, Etihad Cargo.

Ethiad Cargo operates four dedicated charters to move 510 tonnes of flowers from Nairobi to various destinations in Europe. The cargo freighters use advanced cold chain technologies, temperature-controlled storage, and predictive analytics to preserve the perishables from farm to market.

“We are proud to support the floriculture, which plays a role in linking African producers with the world.”

“QR Cargo moved as many as 2,800 tonnes of flowers—about 42 million red roses—in a short span.”





SPECIAL NEEDS

The intricate logistics of transporting fresh flowers require precise coordination and advanced cooling technologies. Maintaining freshness during transit is a top priority.

Flowers are kept between 2°C and -8°C, using specialised thermal covers and IoT sensors to monitor conditions throughout the journey. These advanced measures help reduce risks and preserve the delicate quality of each flower shipment, sustaining the global flower trade year-round.

QR Cargo moved 2,800 tonnes of flowers—42 million red roses—in a short span, ensuring global supply chains

Flowers are kept between 2°C and -8°C, using specialised thermal covers and IoT sensors to monitor conditions throughout the journey

remained uninterrupted. The flowers originated from Kenya and South America, with major distribution hubs in

Amsterdam, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia. “Both Kenya and South America’s floriculture industries are suc-

cess stories and they must be supported. Both countries are known for producing quality cut roses. As the leading air cargo carrier of the world, we are proud to be able to play our part in sharing this great product with the world and supporting the local economies of Kenya Bogota and Quito,” Mark Drusch, Chief Cargo Officer, Qatar Airways, emphasised. 🌹





Emirates SkyCargo leads fight against illegal wildlife trafficking

Illegal wildlife trade remains one of the most serious threats to the planet’s biodiversity, across air cargo and logistics sectors. Emirates SkyCargo has been working to disrupt the illegal wildlife trade across its network, helping preserve the natural world for future generations, says **Badr Abbas, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo.**

 CT Bureau

With the World Wildlife Day observed recently, Emirates SkyCargo reflects on the progress it has made to avoiding any form of wildlife trafficking, reinforcing this is more than just a policy. Emirates SkyCargo has set a zero-tolerance policy on the illegal wildlife trade. This includes a ban on hunting trophies for the “Big-IV”—elephants, rhinos, lions, and leopards—to destinations where such practices may be legally permitted.

“Though we support global supply chains, linking businesses with suppliers and customers in 145 destinations worldwide, the illegal wildlife trade is one supply chain we will proudly disrupt. By refusing to carry illegal wildlife trafficking, the land, air, and sea logistics network is in a

unique position to stop the illicit trade,” emphasised Badr Abbas, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo.

Emirates SkyCargo has partnered with Project Vikela, a project aimed at developing automated systems for detecting illegal wildlife products in African airports. This region, which is rich in biodiversity,

is particularly vulnerable to the illegal wildlife trade, and involvement of Emirates SkyCargo in this initiative shows the cargo carrier’s proactive approach to curb illegal wildlife trafficking.

This is not all. The cargo division also refuses to transport banned products such as shark fins, rhino horns,

elephant tusks, and leopard skins. Rigorous protocols have been put in place to identify and prevent the transportation of such illicit goods, including screenings, document verification, and detailed checks on permits. It also supports initiatives aimed at strengthening enforcement and detection capabilities.



The carrier has imparted training to 30,000 employees, including those working in cargo, passenger operations and contracted ground handling staff on how to recognise and report suspicious cargo. This training programme ensures employees are equipped

Emirates SkyCargo has also lent its expertise to supporting animal rescue missions

to identify and avoid any illegal wildlife shipments that may pass through their hands.

After the African Union’s decision in 2024 to ban the slaughter of donkeys, Emirates SkyCargo has extended its embargo to include the trade of donkey hides. This move helped protect animal welfare and safeguarded the livelihoods of people in Africa who depend on donkeys for their daily needs.

In partnership with The Donkey Sanctuary, the airline co-created the Aviation Risk and Threat Assessment guide, aimed at educating the aviation and logistics sectors on the risks posed by the donkey skin trade.



Emirates SkyCargo has also lent its expertise to supporting animal rescue missions. One such mission involved rescuing Sara, a lion cub. Later, the cargo carrier worked with Animals Lebanon to transport Sara to a sanctuary in Cape Town, giving her a chance to live life in its natural habitat.



“Protecting wildlife is built into the Emirates Environmental Sustainability Framework thereby making it as a core part of our DNA. We understand it is essential to maintain Earth’s biodiversity, not just to support wildlife, but to protect human communities in all the destinations we serve,” said Badr Abbas.

It has also worked closely with global organisations, including Convention on In-

ternational Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Dubai Customs and Dubai Police, to intercept illegal wildlife shipments. By strengthening enforcement efforts, the company has been able to avoid animal trafficking networks, demonstrating its commitment to preserving endangered species.

In 2023, Emirates achieved IATA Environmental Assessment (IEnvA) certification, which includes a module on illegal wildlife trafficking. Additionally, the carrier has been involved in international efforts such as the Buckingham Palace Declaration and the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce, contributing to broader industry efforts to curb the illegal wildlife trade.



KEY DATA

- 145**
145 destinations served globally
- 30,000**
staff trained to detect illegal wildlife trade
- Big-4**
species banned from transport
- 6,000**
flights with conservation liveries
- 5 A380**
aircraft featuring wildlife liveries

Etihad Cargo strengthens relations at Ramadan event

Etihad Cargo hosted a special event for its partners and corporate customers during the Holy month of Ramadan to celebrate their collaboration. The event fostered stronger relationships reflecting Etihad Cargo's commitment to excellence, innovation and customer-centric service.



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Silkway West Airlines meets partners, plans expansion

Silkway West Airlines hosted a networking event, bringing together leading cargo agents and logistics experts to enhance global connectivity. The event explored industry innovations, and reinforced Silkway West's commitment to efficient, sustainable air freight solutions. Strengthening partnerships remains key as the airline continues to expand its reach.





SolitAir selects Centrik 5 for safe & efficient cargo operations

SolitAir has chosen TrustFlight’s Safety, Quality, and Risk Management platform, Centrik 5. Starting with its Boeing 737-800 freighter fleet, the carrier builds a solid foundation for its operations by implementing it for excellence in the Middle East market.



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SolitAir aims to optimise service reliability and operational efficiency, while ensuring sustainable growth with Centrik 5 platform. The cargo carrier operates daily express scheduled services between Dubai and high-demand trade routes across the Global South, addressing middle-mile logistics challenges.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

SolitAir has been designed as a digital-first carrier, utilising advanced technology to build a resilient and future-ready cargo airline and minimise administrative complexities.

“To build a resilient and future-ready cargo airline, we recognise the importance of digital transformation from day one. TrustFlight’s Centrik 5 offers the robust digital infrastructure we need



Hamdi Osman
Founder and Chief Executive
SolitAir

“By integrating Centrik 5’s core modules, the cargo airline is setting a new standard in compliance.”

to centralise our documentation, enhance safety and compliance, and efficiently manage our multi-hub opera-

tions while maintaining strict data privacy between them,” Hamdi Osman, Founder and Chief Executive, SolitAir, said. By integrating Centrik 5’s core modules—Safety, Compliance (Quality), Risk Management, Workflows, and Regulations—SolitAir is setting a new standard in compliance, and operational oversight within the air cargo industry.

The company’s objective is to maintain strict regulatory alignment, while eliminating reliance on traditional paper-based processes. The adoption of Centrik 5 is a strategic step in fortifying this mission by enhancing safety, optimising workflows, and ensuring compliance with international aviation standards.

“We are excited to partner with SolitAir as they embark on their mission to redefine cargo logistics in the AMEISC region. This collaboration highlights

TrustFlight’s commitment to empowering aviation stakeholders with innovative digital solutions that enhance safety, efficiency, and sustainability,” asserted Karl Steeves, CEO, TrustFlight. Starting with its Boeing 737F 800 fleet, SolitAir builds a solid foundation for its ops by implementing Centrik 5 for excellence in Middle East.



Logistics zone to come up in Dammam Second Industrial City

The Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones in collaboration with the National Centre for Privatisation & PPP officially invited interested parties for an Economic Order Interval to develop a logistics zone, spanning approximately 850,000 square meters, in Dammam Second Industrial City, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

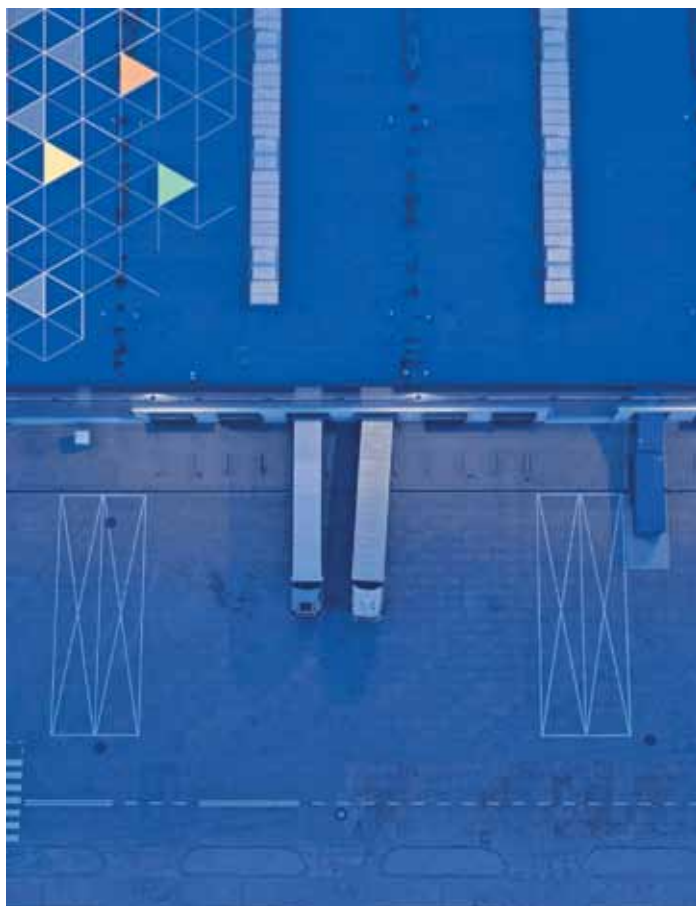
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The Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones (MODON), in collaboration with the National Centre for Privatisation & PPP (NCP) will execute the project under a PPP model, utilising a Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain-Transfer (DB-FOMT) contract for a duration of 30 years.

Spanning approximately 850,000 square meters, the Logistics Zone Development is in the Dammam Second Industrial City, a vital economic hub in the Eastern Province

of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The development will play a significant role in the Kingdom's broader economic strategy, particularly in strengthening its logistics infrastructure to support its aspiration to become a global logistics centre.

The development will play a significant role in the Kingdom's broader economic strategy



The logistics zone will feature modern logistics facilities, warehousing solutions, and essential infrastructure designed to integrate existing and future industrial activities in the region. Among the components of the project will be a gated public area, a non-gated public area, leasable spaces, and a dedicated utility infrastructure area. These elements are planned to optimise the zone's functionality, facilitating smooth trade operations and enhancing cross-border connectivity.

As part of the project, the private sector partner will be responsible for securing financing, designing and constructing the leasable areas and maintaining the infrastructure. The partner will also oversee the zone's operations and maintenance and focus on the project's commercialisation aspects, including tenant attractions, leasing, and revenue generation.

This development aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which emphasises diversifying the economy and fostering private sector participation in large-scale infrastructure projects. As the logistics sector plays a significant role in the Kingdom's diversification efforts, this project is expected to drive substantial growth.

Through such initiatives, the Kingdom aims to strengthen its logistics ecosystem, contributing to the nation's overall economic diversification goals. The Dammam Second Industrial City Logistics Zone Development is set to be a significant enabler for industrial expansion and trade.

With the EoI now open, the MODON and NCP invite interested parties to take part in the development of this project, which promises to shape the future of KSA's logistics sector. 🏗️

Project logistics: Niche area driving logistics in GCC nations

Project logistics have been driving growth and innovation across GCC by expanding infrastructure. In an interview, Marc Prasad, Regional Vice President, Global Network Development & Special Projects, ALSI Global LLC, shares insights into the new developments in the industry this year.

CT Bureau

Could you share the current trends in project logistics?

Project logistics is a niche area. But since we have good links with global forwarders, due to our expertise, we often act as their subcontractors. As a company, we are



Marc Prasad
Regional Vice President, Global Network Development & Special Projects, ALSI Global LLC

investing heavily in growth, in terms of infrastructure and people. We are expanding our product offerings in the UAE, focusing on niche products to drive this growth in KSA and Qatar. Since we are efficient in automotive logistics, we manage 2,000 to 2,500 units, multiple brands, where we do custom brokerage, and warehousing and manage cross-border transportation.

Which areas are vital in Oman?

Our projects are focused mainly on Oman and GCC countries. We are very strong in automotive logis-



tics and manage 2,000 and 2,500 units across multiple brands. The company's services cover everything from customs brokerage to warehousing and cross-border transportation.

What trends do you foresee shaping up the industry?

We expect to see more opportunities as geopolitical tensions ease, particularly

“Our services cover everything from customs brokerage and warehousing and cross-border transportation.”

in the Red Sea and the air freight sector. Freight costs are aligning with pre-Covid-19, benefiting the industry. E-commerce will continue to grow, but it will not replace normal air freight. Our location in the Middle East region opens opportunities to work with markets such as China and the USA. We have offices in four countries, which are connected globally through our agency network, allowing us to reach clients across five continents.

How do you view e-commerce's impact on logistics?

E-commerce is significant, especially in the GCC coun-

tries, but it has not overtaken traditional freight. Smaller parcels and online shopping are growing, but larger shipments rely on traditional methods. There is room for them to coexist. Demand fluctuates with seasonal trends, but overall, the situation is improving. There is more capacity available now, which benefits customers by providing them with more options.

How does multimodal logistics impact larger shipments?

We have infrastructure for road transport for handling cross-border shipments. In the future, rail transport will be a viable option for longer distances. Multimodal logistics is a part of the system. There will be a need for last-mile services, which we can support using our existing resources. Our objective is to expand our customer base, retain existing clients, and adapt our product offerings to meet customer demands.



Al Futtaim Logistics **forays** into KSA with advanced solutions

Al-Futtaim Logistics is set to expand its Aerospace Logistics division into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Oman by Q2 of 2025, catering to the rapidly increasing demand for advanced logistics solutions in the region. The region's aerospace market is experiencing significant growth, with a compound annual growth rate of 4.4%.

CT Bureau

Following the successful launch of its Aerospace Logistics division in the UAE in 2023, Al Futtaim Logistics has established its presence in the Kingdom, with Oman set to follow in second quarter of 2025.

The Middle East continues to strengthen its position as a global aerospace hub, with demand for high-end logistics solutions surging. The region's aerospace market is experiencing significant growth, with a CAGR of 4.4 per cent. GCC's aircraft Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services market is projected to expand by 14.5 per cent over the next five years. Fleet expansion and the increas-



Dr. Raman Kumar
MD
Al-Futtaim Logistics

ing demand for wide-body aircraft maintenance are key drivers behind the need for enhanced logistics services. With 1,000 new aircraft deliveries expected from 2029 to 2030, the demand for sophisticated aerospace logistics solutions in the region—particu-

“The aerospace industry operates in a time-sensitive environment where every single minute counts.”

larly in KSA—is more pressing than ever.

Commenting on the expansion, Dr. Raman Kumar, MD, Al-Futtaim Logistics, said, “This expansion into KSA and Oman marks a significant milestone for Al-Futtaim Logistics’ regional growth.” The aerospace industry operates in a time-sensitive environment where every minute counts,

and our tailored logistics solutions are designed to minimise downtime and ensure seamless operations, he added.

“With our regional expertise and global reach, strong regulatory compliance, and commitment to innovation and AI technology, we are ready to meet the needs of the aviation sector in these markets,” he added. As an Authorised Economic Operator accredited by the UAE Federal Customs Authority and Dubai Customs, Al-Futtaim Logistics upholds stringent compliance standards set by the World Customs Organisation, Aviation Suppliers Association and International Standards Organisation.

Al-Futtaim Logistics’ foray into KSA aligns with the region's broader push to position itself as a leading aviation hub. The company's expansion will provide aerospace businesses with tailored, technology-driven logistics solutions that enhance operational efficiency, reduce turnaround times, and ensure seamless supply chain management.



KEY DATA

4.4%

CAGR of the Middle East aerospace market

14.5%

GCC MRO market growth (next five years)

1,000+

New aircraft deliveries by 2029-30

24/7

AOG desk operations

dnata implements OneCargo system to streamline processes

dnata continues implementing cutting-edge technology in handling, enhancing efficiency and customer experience. **Guillaume Crozier, Chief Cargo Officer**, highlights digitisation through OneCargo system, AI-driven tools, and autonomous drones, ensuring seamless operations, real-time insights, and optimised performance across its network.

CT Bureau

dnata has been implementing innovative technologies to enhance cargo operations and customer experience. Guillaume Crozier, Chief Cargo Officer, dnata, said, “We continue to invest in the latest innovative technologies that have a direct positive impact on our airline customers, reflecting our commitment to delivering the highest level of service.”



Guillaume Crozier
Chief Cargo Officer
dnata

The key element in dnata’s digital transformation is the implementation of OneCargo. This cloud-based, AI-powered platform streamlines processes and ensures operational efficiency. “dnata implements the OneCargo system that serves as the foundation of the company’s digitisation strategy and aims to standardise procedures at all stations worldwide,” he added.

OneCargo automates critical functions such as safety and quality monitoring, reporting, and ULD manage-

ment, reducing redundancies and manual processes. This not only enhances efficiency but also provides real-time visibility into sales and business performance. “AI-driven tools and analytics provide enhanced visibility on sales and business performance, allowing customers to match real-time demand with available capacity for maximum profitability,” Crozier commented. By eliminating manual check sheets, dnata has substantially improved operational efficiency across its global network.

“Automation needs to be adapted to each market ecosystem and coordinated with all the stakeholders.”

INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM

Another key aspect of dnata’s innovation strategy is the seamless integration of various systems to enhance operational coherence and transparency. “Our fully integrated ecosystem seamlessly connects a Traffic Management System, Landside Management System, Airport Community System, Warehouse Management System, and Cargo Management System. This ensures end-to-end coordination and complete visibility,” he asserted.

By addressing challenges at the data layer, dnata has enabled near real-time insights, allowing for proactive optimisation of performance. This holistic approach ensures that software and hardware solutions are optimised to improve customer experience.

The adoption of these digital solutions has been met with enthusiasm from dnata’s airline customers. “We can see across the network that our customers are welcoming to the impact of new technology, which provides transparency at shipment level, improves processing time, and reduces the risk of human error,” he said. Customers now expect greater flexibility and specialisation, particularly in verticals

such as pharma, e-commerce, and 3PL. “The level of automation needs to be adapted to each market ecosystem and well-coordinated with all the stakeholders to bring optimal benefits,” he added.

AUTONOMOUS DRONES IN CARGO

“dnata integrated autonomous drones into cargo operations in Dubai earlier this year. This has produced outstanding results, having a transformative effect on our efficiency levels. Key results include a 20 per cent reduction in processing times on rack inventories and over 99 per cent accuracy in shipment tracking,” averred the dnata Chief Cargo Officer.

The drones have seamlessly integrated into the company’s daily workflow, significantly improving warehouse inventory processes. “On average, our drones monitor some 1,800 shipments daily with 99 per cent accuracy across 2,400 rack locations,” Crozier added. This innovation demonstrates the company’s commitment to leveraging automation for precision and efficiency.



KEY STATS

- 20%**
reduction in processing times on rack inventories
- 99%**
accuracy in shipment tracking
- 1,800**
shipments monitored daily by autonomous drones
- 99%**
accuracy across 2,400 rack locations

Digitalisation makes headway in logistics industry

In an industry that has long relied on traditional methods like emails, spreadsheets, and phone calls to manage operations, digital transformation is finally making headway. In a recent interview, **Adolf Colasso**, CEO, **e2log**, discusses how technology is changing the logistics and how companies facilitate the digital adoption.

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With advancements in AI and digitalisation, companies are beginning to realise the need to modernise their logistics operations. There is a drastic shift in the industrial and project logistics sector. “The industrial and project

but have been lagging in digitalising their logistics processes,” he added.

DIGITAL GAP IN LOGISTICS

“What we do is deliver a platform allowing all logistics providers, regardless of location, to execute logistics seamlessly on one digital

through the platform. So, it takes away a lot of those kinds of inefficiencies,” he added.

IMPACT ON AIR CARGO

“Most cargo owners require a mix of transportation modes. Sometimes it is air freight for urgent shipments, other times it is ocean freight for cost-effectiveness. Our platform manages all modes, whether a small package or a massive offshore platform. It makes the interaction between them and their customers efficient. Fewer people are needed because the process is digitalised, document exchanges become seamless, and transparency increases,” he stressed.

Most logistics providers can access improved payment processes with the e2log platform. “One of their biggest challenges is getting paid on time. With technology, invoices are uploaded and tracked in real-time, ensuring faster approvals and payments,” emphasised Colasso.

2025 DIGITAL TRENDS

He observed a growing recognition of digitalisation in the Middle East. “One thing is clear; companies understand the need to digitalise, especially in the region,” he said. However, digital transformation is not just about adopting new technology; it requires a cultural shift.

“It is not as simple as plugging in a system and expecting it to work magically. Firms must integrate the system, train users, standardise data, and streamline processes,” he added. Industry leaders must



Adolf Colasso
CEO
e2log

“The company’s platform manages all modes, whether a small package or a massive offshore platform.”

recognise the advantages and follow the pioneers who have adopted digital strategies. “The technology is available. Now, it is about having the right mindset to embrace and implement it.”



space has been a technology laggard,” Adolf Colasso, CEO, e2log, explained.

e2log provides a technology platform designed to digitalise logistics operations for large-scale industries such as engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) companies, logistics and cargo companies, oil and gas firms, and mining corporations.

“There is a clear shift from legacy ways of doing things to adopting digital solutions. Firms are good at engineering and executing large projects

platform. It eliminates the need for emails, spreadsheets, and shared drives thereby making the entire process efficient and cost-effective,” said Colasso. The benefits of such digitalisation are immense. Companies gain enhanced visibility over their operations, real-time data for decision-making, and improved tracking of logistics providers’ performance.

“It helps create a more transparent process because now everything is recorded digitally. It makes the exchange of documents easier



PSA Ventures & NIDLP focus on sustainable logistics

PSA Ventures and National Industrial Development and Logistics Program (NIDLP) have collaborated to identify, nurture, and invest in promising start-ups in the supply chain and logistics industry. The partnership will seek inter-government funding support to strengthen initiatives and accelerate growth in areas of sustainability in logistics.



The collaboration between PSA Ventures and National Industrial Development and Logistics Program (NIDLP) will transform logistics and supply chain management (SCM), advance efficiency and sustainability on a global scale.

The collaboration highlights three areas of innovation. These include implementation of cutting-edge technologies to streamline operations, improve efficiency, accelerate renewable energy solutions across supply chains to promote sustainability, lev-



This is testament to their shared commitment to foster tech advancement to redefine logistics

erage data analytics to optimize logistics processes and enhance decision-making.

The three areas of cooperation are as follows:

- Mutual market access and technology piloting:** They will provide market entry opportunities and facilitate testing of innovative solutions in real-world operational environments.
- Mutual knowledge transfer:** The collaboration will foster industry best practices through exchange programmes and mentorship, enhancing expertise in logistics, automation, and digital trans-

formation.

- Cross-border investments:** The firms will explore joint investment opportunities to support and scale high-potential technologies and solutions.

The partnership will also seek inter-government funding support to strengthen initiatives and accelerate growth in areas of sustainability in logistics. It also underscores a shared vision of driving efficiency, technological advancements, and sustainability within global supply chains.

Regarding the partnership, Eddy Ng, Group Head, Operations and Sustainability, PSA International, said, "This is testament to our shared commitment to foster technological advancement that will redefine logistics and SCM. Just as nodes in a network interconnect to enable seamless data exchange,

PSA Ventures and NIDLP will serve as links bridging Singapore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the rest of the world. By leveraging our combined expertise, we aim to accelerate the adoption of transformative solutions benefit the global trade and sustainability."

"At NIDLP, we are committed to driving innovation that shapes the future of logistics and SCM with support from the Ministry of Transport and

Logistics Services. Our collaboration with PSA Ventures is a step toward advancing port automation, sustainable supply chains, and digital transformation. We aim to develop scalable, technologies that enhance efficiency and accelerate green energy transition. This partnership reaffirms KSA's position as an industrial powerhouse and a global logistic hub in line with Saudi Vision 2030," Eng. Suliman Almazroua, CEO, NIDLP, said.

Innovations

- Advanced tech to streamline operations
- Investment in renewable energy for supply chains
- Optimising logistics with analytics
- Developing MVPs with a path to commercialisation

Collaborations

- Testing innovations in real-world environments
- Exchange programmes and mentorship
- Joint funding for high-potential technologies. Exploring funding for long-term innovation



DHL Express, Sanad agree for sustainable aviation logistics

DHL Express along with Sanad is pioneering sustainable logistics within the aviation sector by integrating DHL's GoGreen Plus service into its logistics operations. Sanad aims to reduce its carbon footprint by 30% by utilising Sustainable Aviation Fuel. As part of the agreement, Sanad will receive an SGS certificate verifying the emissions reductions.

CT Bureau

DHL's GoGreen Plus service, launched in 2022, has set an industry benchmark by leveraging SAF to reduce Scope 3 emissions—indirect Green House Gas emissions (GHG emis-

Through this move, Sanad is set to decarbonise its supply chains, contributing to climate goals

sions) occurring in the value chain. Through this initiative, Sanad is set to decarbonise its supply chains, contributing to international environmental objectives.

This pact reinforces commitment of both companies to sustainability along with the UAE's goals for achieving net zero emissions by 2050. "The UAE's vision for net zero



emissions by 2050 is inspiring. At DHL, we are honoured to support this goal by helping customers such as Sanad to reduce their carbon footprint with our solution. This collaboration demonstrates our shared responsibility to build a more sustainable future and reinforces the UAE's leadership in climate action," Mahmoud Haj Hussein, Managing Director of DHL Express UAE," said.

Unlike traditional offsetting programmes, GoGreen

Plus operates on the principle of insetting, meaning emission reductions are achieved directly within the supply chain. The results of this initiative are audited by an independent third party, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Mansoor Janahi, CEO, Sanad, said, "Sustainability is no longer an option; it is a shared responsibility. At Sanad, we are committed to integrating environmentally responsible practices across our operations. Our partnership

with DHL Express is a testament to this commitment, as we take concrete steps to reduce our carbon footprint through sustainable logistics solutions." As part of the pact, Sanad will receive an SGS certificate verifying emissions reductions attained through the partnership. DHL's sustainability initiatives encompass a commitment to achieving net-zero GHGs by 2050. They include electrifying its delivery fleet, expanding SAF use across its aviation network.



NAP and CargoAi create global payment platform

Neutryal Air Partner has launched NAPAY, an innovative payment solution designed exclusively for its network, aiming to redefine the way financial transactions are handled within the global air cargo sector. The platform enables freight forwarders, consolidators, airlines, and GSSAs within the NAP network, says **Christos Spyrou, CEO**.



In partnership with CargoAi, NAPAY is powered by the cutting-edge CargoWALLET technology, ensuring secure, fast, and seamless transactions for air cargo operations worldwide. The platform enables freight forwarders, consolidators, airlines, and General Sales and Service Agents (GSSAs) within the NAP network to process global payments with remarkable ease and efficiency.

“Partnering with CargoWALLET to launch NAPAY marks a milestone for NAP. Our goal is to empower our network with an advanced, reliable payment solution that not only simplifies transactions between members but also drives efficiency and transparency across the air cargo logistics ecosystem. NAPAY is a game changer for our industry,” averred Christos Spyrou, CEO, NAP.

One of the key features of NAPAY is its integration



Christos Spyrou
CEO
NAP

with CargoWALLET’s multi-currency, API-first payment platform. This integration provides a range of benefits for NAP members:

Real-Time payment processing: NAPAY allows for instant transactions across more than 150 countries and 47 currencies, ensuring that financial flows are secure, fast, and timely, irrespective of geographic location.

Enhanced security and transparency: With robust encryption and trace-

“Partnering with CargoWALLET to launch NAPAY marks a milestone for NAP. It is a game changer for our industry.”

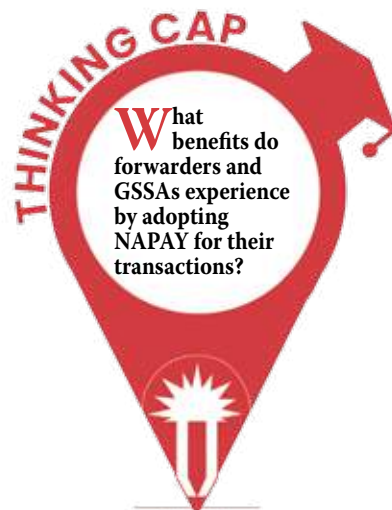
ability features, NAPAY adheres to global standards, offering members the peace of mind that their financial transactions are both secure and fully compliant with regulations.

Operational efficiency: NAPAY streamlines financial operations, reducing overhead costs and improving cash flow management for all parties involved in the transaction process.

For NAP network members, NAPAY offers a revolutionary solution to long-standing challenges associated with traditional payment methods. “I am excited

to start using NAPAY. As a NAP network member, we frequently send and receive payments with other global members. Traditional payment options are slow and expensive, but NAPAY offers real-time payments at a reasonable cost. It is easy to use, helping us keep freight moving efficiently,” Damien Rizzo, CFO, EZ Cargo, said.

The collaboration between NAP and CargoAi, according to Olivier Veyrac, Senior VP, CargoAi’s CargoWALLET, underscores the power of digital innovation in transforming freight logistics. “We are excited to collaborate with NAP on NAPAY, a solution exemplifying how digital innovation can transform freight logistics. By leveraging CargoWALLET’s capabilities, NAPAY delivers secure, real-time payments that support our mutual commitment to efficiency and excellence in the air cargo industry. This partnership reinforces our vision to simplify global freight transactions and drive sustainable growth.”



Dubai Customs launches AI-driven tool to facilitate trade

Dubai Customs has introduced 'Al Munasiq', an advanced AI-powered platform set to transform the classification of goods based on the Harmonised System Code. The objective is to strengthen Dubai's position as a global trade leader by continuously improving its customs framework through AI-driven solutions.

 CT Bureau

Dubai Customs new platform, 'Al Munasiq', is designed to assist users in classifying goods through multiple advanced search methods,

"Our vision aligns with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, aiming to make Dubai the best and future-ready emirate. Through the adoption of AI and advanced digital solutions, we are enhancing customs processes and contributing to Dubai's broader economic agenda," said Dr. Abdulla Busenad, Director-General, Dubai Customs.

This initiative is part of a long-term strategy that spans several years, utilising Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies to improve trade facilitation and operational efficiency. The objective is to

strengthen Dubai's position as a global trade leader by continuously improving its customs framework through AI-driven solutions.

ENHANCING EFFICIENCY

Juma Al Ghaith, Advisor to the Director-General and Executive Director, Artificial Intelligence, Dubai Customs, highlighted the impact of digital transformation on trade facilitation. He commented, "Dubai Customs remains steadfast in developing innovative programmes, systems, and platforms that streamline customs services for clients thereby saving time and effort. By adopting global best practices in AI and digital technologies, we enhance trust and confidence in customs procedures,



including text input via keyboard or microphone, and even image recognition. By leveraging AI, the tool ensures traders and businesses can access critical information regarding product descriptions, customs duty rates, and any curbs applicable to their goods. This initiative marks a step towards enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and speed in customs procedures.

Dubai Customs integrates technology into its operations to provide seamless, efficient, and customer-centric services. Dubai Customs' dedication to investing in AI and other modern technologies drives innovation and efficiency in customs operations.



Dr. Abdulla Busenad
Director-General
Dubai Customs



Juma Al Ghaith
Advisor to DG, and ED, Artificial
Intelligence, Dubai Customs

“By adopting AI & ML, we are enhancing customs and contributing to Dubai's broader economic agenda.”

ultimately improving Dubai's global competitiveness.”

The 'Al Munasiq' application incorporates user-friendly features, such as maintaining a search history, a favourites list, and the ability to save and share classification results. Additionally, it provides users with detailed

“It remains steadfast in developing programmes, and platforms that streamline customs services.”

insights into goods classification, harmonised codes, and their corresponding customs duty rates. The platform informs traders whether a harmonised code falls under any free trade agreement between the UAE and other countries, allowing businesses to maximise cost-saving opportunities in global trade.

AI-Powered Customs Enhancement

- Uses AI for accurate HS Code classification
- Supports text, voice, and image-based searches
- Accelerate customs procedures with automation
- Aligns with Dubai's AI-driven governance strategy

Business & Trade Benefits

- Ensures transparency in customs processes
- Strengthens Dubai's global trade position
- Identify products under free trade agreements
- Available on multiple digital platforms for easy access

Oman firms **invest** in technology to shore up shipments' visibility

In a recent interview, **Juma'il Miskry, Director, Asyad Logistics**, provided detailed insights into the evolving trends, the role of technology, sustainability initiatives and regional infrastructure developments shaping the logistics industry. Digitalisation ensures all parties in the supply chain are synchronised, mitigating risks of delays and bottlenecks.

 CT Bureau

As businesses become more focused on transparency, the logistics industry in Oman is investing heavily in technology to provide real-time updates on shipments. It offers clients the ability to track their goods at various levels, from individual trucks to entire inventories. Asyad Logistics is leveraging tech-

management, such as the construction and manufacturing sectors.

"A big shipment that could take 12 months in manufacturing and then trucks from Ukraine, among others, can have a big consequence on the project. In these scenarios, logistics providers must ensure not just visibility but also the safe and timely delivery of sensitive materials," Miskry



Juma'il Miskry
Director
Asyad Logistics

visible on the truck level or on the inventory level. Last-mile delivery prioritises speed and shipment tracking. For long-haul shipments, the emphasis shifts to adhering to quality, health, safety, and environmental regulations, he added.

ME LOGISTICS MARKET

By investing in technology for improving efficiency, such as better planning of logistics assets and reducing 'empty miles' driven by trucks, Asyad is contributing to sustainability. "LSPs will be able to plan their logistics assets and trucks efficiently thereby reducing the number of empty miles those trucks drive by decreasing the waste in the supply chain. These steps help reduce energy consumption and minimise pollution," he highlighted. "It is an exciting time to be in this field, especially with Vision 2030 initiatives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We are operating in multiple locations in the UAE, KSA, and the Kingdom of Bahrain. GCC is growing on the agenda with Oman Vision 2040, driving logistics innovation for Asyad to look for the right opportunities," he said.



nology to enhance visibility at various levels, including truck, inventory, and purchase order tracking.

"The value proposition of multimodal transportation is great. Without the visibility that gives the clients a view of where their shipments are, who is handling the shipment, and what mode of transportation remains a tricky question," averred Juma'il Miskry, Director, Asyad Logistics. The growing demand for visibility is tied to the complexity of modern logistics. For instance, "some clients look for visibility on the purchase order level", he said, indicating a shift toward more granular tracking that extends beyond mere shipment tracking. These advancements are important in industries where large-scale projects require comprehensive logistics

added. In these cases, visibility on a detailed level might be less feasible. However, the clients prioritise compliance with stringent quality, health, security, safety and environmental regulations.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION

The role of technology, particularly AI, is critical to enhance efficiency and tracking of large shipments. Miskry described how AI assists with organising and transporting components such as wind turbines for a construction project. "AI and advanced technologies can play role where you have the visibility of what is available in your staging area, how fast your EPC contractor is progressing, and how AI can assist in planning of assets and movements," he explained. Digitalisation ensures that all parties in the supply chain—from ports

“LSPs will be able to plan logistics assets and trucks thereby reducing the number of empty miles.”

to contractors—are synchronised, mitigating risks of delays and bottlenecks.

"One of the big trends we see is firms focusing on investing in technologies to shore up the visibility of the shipments. And we see that happening at different levels. So, it could be

Key trends

- Enhanced tracking across all shipment levels
- AI streamlines large project management, like wind turbines
- Visibility for different shipment needs
- Tech-driven efficiency reduces energy use and waste

Development goals

- Asyad grows across Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Oman
- Focus on digitalization and competitive logistics
- Infrastructure investments align with Saudi and UAE goals
- Efficient logistics for large-scale regional projects

Transit cargo inspection centre opens to streamline handling

In a significant move to ease cargo transition, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has inaugurated the integrated transit cargo inspection center at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah to ensure speed and accuracy in inspection operations, while maintaining the highest security standards.

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The new integrated transit cargo inspection center opened at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah represents a major leap forward in

The deployment of advanced systems stresses the Kingdom's approach to adopting global best practices

implementing projects aimed at improving operational efficiency.

After inaugurating the inspection center, His Excellency Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser, Minister of Transport and Logistics Services, KSA, and Chairman, General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA)



Board, said, "The transit cargo inspection system leverages cutting-edge technologies, including X-ray inspection devices for consolidated cargo and smart system integration. These innovations ensure speed and accuracy in inspection operations, while maintaining the highest security standards."

This initiative follows the recent inauguration of similar centers at the King Fahd International Airport in Dammam and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. The establishment of these centers is to ease the optimization of air cargo procedures and integrate the latest security technologies to streamline operations.

The initiative is aligned with the objectives of the civil aviation sector and contributes to the broader goals of Saudi Vision 2030. As part of this vision, the Kingdom seeks to strengthen its logistics infrastructure, enhance trade facilitation, and modernise its aviation security framework. The



center employs an automated system that enhances monitoring capabilities and improves handling efficiency. Smart analytics enhance cargo inspections, minimise wait times, and ensure a smooth flow of goods through KSA's airports. The deployment of such advanced systems highlights the Kingdom's proactive approach to adopting global best practices for aviation security and logistics management.

His Excellency Abdulaziz Al-Duailej, President, General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), said, "The inspection centers is staffed by a team of

trained personnel from various security agencies, working round-the-clock. From cargo registration through multi-level radiation inspection to final decision-making, our system ensures the highest levels of security and operational flexibility for transit shipments."

The authority remains committed to developing industry by increasing capacity. The strategic investments in inspection systems and automation underscore the Kingdom's dedication to fostering a world-class aviation sector. 🇸🇦



UPS, Dubai South expand regional logistics capacity

Dubai South has signed a strategic agreement with global logistics leader, UPS, to establish a new facility in Dubai South's Logistics District. Set to commence operations by the end of the year, the new facility will bolster UPS's role in international trade by leveraging its extensive international network.

CT Bureau

Dubai South has strengthened its position as a global logistics hub with the signing of a strategic partnership agreement with UPS. This collaboration aims to boost UPS's capabilities, ensuring faster and more efficient logistics solutions across the Middle East, while supporting the growing demand for supply chain services.

"Our partnership with UPS reflects Dubai South's commitment to reinforcing Dubai's position as a global logistics hub. This new facility will enhance UPS's capabilities, enabling faster and more efficient trade connectivity," disclosed Mohsen Ahmad,

This collaboration aims to boost UPS' capabilities, ensuring faster and efficient logistics solutions



Senior officials of Dubai South and UPS signing the agreement.

Chief Executive Officer, Logistics District, Dubai South.

"We are committed to supporting UPS in its growth ambitions, ensuring it has the necessary resources to meet the rising demand for logistics services across the region. With our strategic location, world-class infrastructure, and seamless multimodal connectivity, Dubai South contin-

ues to be the preferred destination for leading logistics providers seeking to expand in the region," he added.

"Dubai's world-class infrastructure and strategic location at the crossroads of global trade make it a significant hub for UPS's global network. The Logistics District at Dubai South is designed to support international trade and supply chain operations with its multiple zones, including direct access to cargo terminals at Al Maktoum International Airport," informed Ismet Demirel, Vice President, Transportation for India Subcontinent, Middle East & Africa, UPS.

"This investment in new capabilities in the region will allow us to connect businesses across the Middle East to more than 200 countries and territories globally, driving efficiency and growth for

businesses of all sizes in one of the world's most dynamic regions," Demirel informed. The district houses EZDubai, a dedicated e-commerce free zone, and a Contract Logistics Zone, both of which provide businesses with seamless logistics solutions.



UAE's air cargo achieves record growth last year: GCAA

The UAE's air cargo sector surged by 17.8 per cent to reach 4.36 million tonnes, up from 3.7 million tonnes in 2024, as per the recent report by GCAA, highlighting the efficiency and strategic development of the aviation industry. These figures are not just growth indicators; they are a clear testament to the strength of the UAE's aviation sector, it stated.

CT Bureau

The General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) announced that the UAE's air cargo sector experienced remarkable growth in 2024. "These figures are not growth indicators; they are a testament to the strength of the UAE's aviation sector and its key role in supporting the economy. The sector continues to enhance the country's position as a global hub for air transport, trade, and investment etc," His Excellency Abdulla bin Touq Al

Marri, Minister of Economy and Chairman, GCAA, said

The UAE's growing global influence in lieu of the country's selection as the host for key aviation events. "This confidence is evident in the UAE's selection to host key events shaping the future of aviation. In a few days, Abu Dhabi will welcome one of the world's largest civil aviation gatherings, hosting the ICAO 4th Global Implementation Support Symposium 2025 along with the launch of the Global Sustainable Aviation Marketplace. These landmark events will be instrumental in advancing a safe and sustainable aviation ecosystem, with the UAE at its core," he said.

INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION

The aviation infrastructure in the UAE region has seen changes with the growth in number of registered air operators to 36 and 929 registered aircraft, including 520 belonging to the national carriers. "These results achieved by the UAE's aviation sector last year under-



His Excellency Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi
Director-General, GCAA



His Excellency Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri
Minister of Economy and Chairman, GCAA

“These results achieved by the sector last year underscore its growing strength and competitiveness.”

score its growing strength and competitiveness, solidifying its role as a key driver of economic and social growth," commented His Excellency Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, DG, GCAA. "Logistics, manufacturing, and technol-

“These figures are testament to the strength of the aviation sector and its role in supporting national economy.”

ogy will be at the heart of this transformation and we remain at the forefront of emerging economic opportunities," His Excellency Mohamed Hassan Al Suwaidi, Minister of Investment and MD, & Group CEO, ADQ, said. 🇦🇪

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

17.8%

Air cargo growth

4.36 million tonnes

Air cargo volume (2024)

36

Registered air operators

**240 bn dirhams
(US\$65.35 billion)**

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) target by 2031



‘More investments likely in air cargo sector this year’

In a recent interview, **Liana Coyne, Director, Coyne Airways**, sharing her thoughts on the evolving cargo industry, particularly in the context of this year, says a unique perspective is witnessed on the trends and challenges facing the cargo sector. There is an increased demand for cargo from China and Hong Kong into the ME and Europe, she adds.

CT Bureau

How will air cargo evolve this year?

Over the past five years, air cargo industry has witnessed remarkable growth. In the aftermath of the pandemic in 2020 there was a significant impact on the air cargo industry. There was a substantial investment in flight conversions, many of which are now entering active service.

As for this year, we are seeing a stronger start as compared to last year. However, with the new tariffs under the current Trump administration in the USA, it will be interesting to watch how trade lanes evolve.

Are you seeing any specific trends?

Yes, we have witnessed a shift. Before 20 January, there was a significant demand for air cargo from Hong Kong and

China into the USA as the companies worked to mitigate the impact of tariffs by preloading shipments. Now there is an increased demand for air cargo from China and Hong Kong into the Middle East and Europe lanes.

While demand remains steady, people are less willing to commit to long-term agreements because of the uncertainty around tariffs and trade conditions. As a result, we might see a shift towards more flexible options. For example, companies might redirect cargo from China to Vietnam, from the USA to Mexico, or even Canada. For Coyne Airways, we have found China remains our strongest trade lane, and we are seeing robust demand for routes connecting India and Pakistan, particularly for foreign aid and non-branded pharmaceuticals.

How have things evolved in the region regarding markets such as Iraq?

Living in the UAE for more than two decades was beneficial. We initially moved here to take advantage of the Iraq market, and it has remained strong for us. The Iraq mar-



Liana Coyne
Director
Coyne Airways

“While demand remains steady, people are less willing to commit to long-term pacts due to tariff uncertainty.”

ket is quite unique—it is not like a typical market, but it has been consistent. We are presently focusing on the sub-Saharan Africa, here conditions are shifting, driven by factors such as currency fluctuations and the need for aid and relief. The linkage here is very good. The business climate is favourable, with operators and cargo aircraft available,

providing us with the much-needed flexibility.

Do you think project-based cargo is becoming important, especially in Africa and ME region?

Project cargo has been a significant vertical for us, be it feast or famine. It is largely influenced by factors such as oil prices, tariffs, and currency strength. There is plenty of demand, but it is often uncertain. We hear a many customers saying certain projects are coming online, but the timeline often gets delayed.

With e-commerce coming into focus, how do you see aircraft and cargo adapting to the trend?

E-commerce is the largest vertical driving growth right now. One challenge is many airlines are not yet equipped to handle e-commerce—they still treat it like normal cargo. While there is value in approach, the complexity of regulations requires a more specialised approach. We have observed a trend of e-commerce providers trying to bypass forwarders and go directly to carriers.





FedEx launches **new tool** to streamline import process

FedEx has introduced the Collaborative Shipping Tool, a digital solution designed to simplify the import process for customers. This tool enhances efficiency by allowing seamless collaboration between importers and shippers during the creation of Airway Bills (AWB) and improves the overall success rate of pickup operations.

 CT Bureau

The Collaborative Shipping Tool allows importers to share the AWB creation process with shippers, enabling both the parties to confirm shipment details and schedule pickups.

This ensures that shipments are ready when needed and improves the overall success rate of pickup operations. With international merchandise trade projected to grow this year, this tool is set to address critical inefficiencies faced by importers worldwide.

By enhancing collaboration and visibility, the help with common challenges such as failed pickups and lack of shipment transparency are issues highlighted in a study by the International Trade Centre. “As international supply chains grow complex, businesses must adopt smarter

logistics solutions to remain competitive. At FedEx, we are leading the way by leveraging digital innovation to help our customers anticipate challenges and navigate the changing marketplace. The new tool fosters seamless collaboration between importers and shippers, allowing businesses to optimise their supply chains and reduce inefficiencies,” disclosed Salil Chari, Senior Vice President, Marketing and Customer Experience, FedEx Asia Pacific.


The shipping tool offers several key benefits, including

As global supply chains grow complex, businesses adopt smarter logistics solutions



enhanced flexibility, improved shipment data accuracy, and real-time visibility. It is available to FedEx import customers across the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, the USA and Canada, cementing FedEx’s commitment to improving international logistics efficiency. This launch is part of FedEx’s broader digital strategy, com-

plementing other solutions such as iClear, which simplifies the entire import process for businesses worldwide.

With this shipping tool, FedEx is shaping a smarter, and efficient supply chain that ensures goods flow seamlessly across borders, meeting the growing demand for swift and reliable international trade. 

NUPCO gets SR2.5 billion for healthcare supply chain

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's National Unified Procurement Co. has taken step in bolstering the Kingdom's healthcare supply chain by securing three major financing agreements worth SR2.5 billion (US\$666.6 million). NUPCO's latest financing agreements align with its broader strategy to enhance healthcare logistics.

CT Bureau

NUPCO has also signed 10 agreements at the 2025 PIF Private Sector Forum, formalising partnerships with leading local, regional, and global logistics organisations, aiming to provide healthcare supply chain with improved access to resources, ensuring a steady and efficient distribution of medical supplies.

"The company signed an SR500 million deal with Banque Saudi Fransi, an SR 1 billion agreement with First Abu Dhabi Bank, and another SR1 billion agreement with Tameed, which is focused on supporting SMEs in the healthcare sector, where we are trying as much as we can to make them enabled and grow within the sector of the healthcare as well," Khalid Al-Ghamdi, Chief Commercial Officer, NUPCO, said, addressing the PIF Private Sector Forum.

HEALTHCARE LOGISTICS

NUPCO's latest financing agreements align with its broader strategy to enhance healthcare logistics and procurement as a key participant in Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 transformation. To achieve this, the company has established five strategic partnerships with logistics companies such as DHL, SMSA, and UPS. These collaborations aim to strengthen supply chain networks and ensure the efficient delivery of medical resources across the Kingdom.

"We are making sure that all of them are alliances we build our relationship with to make sure we extend the services to their businesses," Al-Ghamdi added. NUPCO also signed a strategic agreement with the Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones to support future logistics expansion. The pact seeks to provide third-party logistics solutions



Khalid Al-Ghamdi
Chief Commercial Officer
NUPCO



Fahad Al Shebel
CEO
NUPCO

“We are trying as much as we can to make them enabled and grow within the sector of the healthcare as well.”

for pharmaceutical factories and businesses within KSA's industrial cities.

"NUPCO is playing a significant role in shaping a cost-effective healthcare supply chain, and we see the private sector as an essential partner in this effort. The forum provided a platform to forge strategic partnerships with leading institutions, allowing us to unlock new opportunities and drive solutions that enhance supply chain resilience and create long-term value for all stakeholders," asserted Fahad Al Shebel, Chief Executive Officer, NUPCO.

NUPCO partnered with Monsha'at, Saudi Arabia's Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority, to integrate SMEs into its supply chain ecosystem. As KSA's

“NUPCO partnered with Monsha'at, KSA's authority to integrate SMEs into its supply chain ecosystem.”

healthcare sector is expanding, NUPCO is scaling its logistics network to meet the increasing demand. The company now supports over 300 hospitals and 2,500 clinics, ensuring that 97 per cent of the Kingdom gets essential medical supplies.

Also, NUPCO is investing in logistics infrastructure, with two state-of-the-art warehouses to start operations by 2026. With an extensive distribution network featuring 2,600 delivery points and an efficient eight-hour delivery window within a 100-km radius of its warehouses, NUPCO is ensuring timely supply chain operations. These new facilities will enhance the company's ability to meet the rising demands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's healthcare sector.

Partnerships

- Aramex—last-mile delivery services for medications and medical devices
- SMSA—expansion of last-mile medical supply deliveries
- UPS—strengthening supply chain efficiency and last-mile deliveries
- DHL—improving last-mile delivery and supply chain operations
- Monsha'at—Enhancing medical supply accessibility for SMEs
- MODON—Developing logistics projects within industrial cities

Financing Mous

- SAR 500 million agreement with Banque Saudi Fransi for supply chain financing
- SAR 1 billion agreement with First Abu Dhabi Bank to provide suppliers immediate access to financing
- SAR 1 billion agreement with Tameed to empower SME suppliers with advanced financial solutions
- An agreement with Saudi Cities Investment Gate (Furas) to facilitate supplier investments

LODD & Skyports unveil vertiport designs for drones

Developing vertiport designs for three strategic locations in Abu Dhabi to launch cargo drone solutions by integrating infrastructure into transportation network, enhancing cargo movement. Designs stem from comprehensive feasibility studies, collaborative efforts with various stakeholders and shared vision for scalable air mobility operations.

CT Bureau

LODD and Skyports signed an agreement to develop a vertiport infrastructure that connects key locations within Abu Dhabi, laying the groundwork for future connectivity across other Emirates. The development of this vertiport network will enable the deployment and expansion of electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) operations and autonomous aerial logistics. The designs stem from comprehensive feasibility studies, collabo-

orative efforts with various stakeholders, and a shared vision for scalable air mobility operations.

“Abu Dhabi serves as a global model for air mobility, thanks to its progressive systems. These vertiports will lay the foundation for a future-ready air mobility network, supporting both commercial eVTOL passenger services and autonomous aerial logistics,” Rashid Al Mannai, CEO, LODD, said.

“The unveiling of these designs highlights the pro-



gress being made to define and develop Abu Dhabi’s AAM infrastructure network. As our vertiport concept designs show, the cargo route is important to Abu Dhabi’s advanced air mobility (AAM) future. The development of a comprehensive cargo network will enable us to bring wide-ranging benefits to the Emirate, for people and businesses,” said Duncan Walker, CEO, Skyports.

The project will focus on three primary locations: Yas

Abu Dhabi serves as a global model for air mobility, thanks to its progressive systems

Island, Al Bateen, and Khalifa Port. These sites were selected following rigorous airspace evaluations, regulatory analyses, and feasibility studies conducted with the involvement of more than 34 stakeholders. A total of 14 potential sites were assessed, culminating in a detailed feasibility study submitted to the Abu Dhabi government.

Through initiatives such as the project, the UAE is poised to become a hub for aerial mobility innovation, setting a benchmark for aerial cargo transportation into urban infrastructure. This collaboration marks a milestone in the UAE’s technological evolution and signals a promising future for efficient and sustainable air mobility solutions. 🚁

Partnership

- LODD and Skyports signed an MoU for vertiport development
- Vertiports planned for Yas Island, Al Bateen, and Khalifa Port
- Enabling passenger and cargo air mobility
- Supports Abu Dhabi’s smart transportation vision

Impact

- Based on feasibility studies and stakeholder input
- Airspace evaluation and compliance considered
- Boosts logistics, trade, and tourism
- Strengthens UAE’s leadership in AI and smart technology



ADIO, Maqta join Etihad Cargo to fortify digital trade & logistics

The Abu Dhabi Investment Office and Maqta Technologies Group, a subsidiary of AD Ports Group, have partnered with Etihad Cargo to introduce the ATLP. These enhancements ensure that logistics providers can seamlessly access real-time data on available capacity and pricing through Etihad Cargo's extensive network.

CT Bureau

Abu Dhabi continues to reinforce its ambition to digitally transform the trade and logistics sectors through strategic collaborations. In a significant move, these enhancements are set to optimise the air shipment process, providing greater efficiency, accuracy, and user satisfaction for logistics providers in the emirate.

Advanced Trade and Logistics Platform (ATLP), operated by Maqta Technologies Group, was inaugurated in May 2020 by His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman, the Abu Dhabi Executive Council. The platform was designed to unify trade and logistics across Abu Dhabi's air, land, sea, and industrial free zones, setting a new benchmark for digital trade facilitation.

The newly introduced features will revolutionise air export rate determination and



Stanislas Brun
Vice President Cargo
Etihad Cargo

the booking process for air shipments. These enhancements ensure that logistics providers can seamlessly access real-time data on available capacity and pricing through Etihad Cargo's extensive network.

"The Abu Dhabi Trade and Logistics Platform (ATLP) continues to be a leading digital solution, with this latest enhancement enhancing the emirate's trade and logistics sectors. Through the collaboration among all partners, traders can now leverage ac-

tionable and real-time data for precise, informed decision-making, while enhanced optimization significantly cuts processing times. Abu Dhabi remains dedicated to delivering cutting-edge trade and logistics solutions, reinforcing its ambition to cultivate a

“Collaborations like these are key to advancing Abu Dhabi's position as a global hub for trade and logistics.”

dynamic trade environment,” commented Mohammad Al Kamali, Chief Trade and Industry Officer, Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO).

Dr. Noura Al Dhaheri, CEO, Maqta Technologies Group and Digital Cluster, AD Ports Group, said, “In today's era of rapid digital transformation, Maqta Technologies

Group is at the forefront of redefining trade and logistics. The launch of these new features on Abu Dhabi's Official Single Trade Window, ATLP, reflects our commitment to driving innovation and delivering value to our stakeholders. We are confident the collaboration with Etihad Cargo will accelerate trade via air and strengthen Abu Dhabi's position as a global trade and logistics hub.”

Stanislas Brun, Vice President, Cargo, Etihad Cargo, said, “We are proud to partner with Maqta Technologies Group to support the ATLP's expansion, driving digital transformation across Abu Dhabi's logistics sector. This latest enhancement aligns with the carrier's commitment to delivering customer-centric solutions streamlining cargo operations. Collaborations like this are key to advancing Abu Dhabi's position as a global hub for trade and logistics. The ATLP enhancements signify a vital step in strengthening Abu Dhabi's digital trade.



Aramex double-digit growth driven by integrated solutions

Aramex has announced financial results for 2024, delivering an 11% year-on-year (YoY) surge, reaching AED 6.3 billion in revenue. The company's fourth-quarter revenue also grew by 11% YoY, amounting to AED 1.7 billion. This impressive growth was driven by strong contributions from all product lines.

CT Bureau

Aramex's growth was strong in the GCC and MENAT regions, both of which recorded double-digit increases in revenue and gross profitability. Gross profit for Q4 2024 rose by 3 per cent YoY to AED 398.6 million, while full-year gross profit increased by 6 per cent to AED 1.5 billion, with a stable gross profit margin of 24 per cent for both periods. Aramex's net profit for 2024 climbed 10 per cent YoY to AED 142 million.

A driver of growth was the paradigm shift towards nearshoring, as businesses sought to position inventory closer to important markets. This trend fuelled demand for domestic express services, intra-regional cross-border express, and warehousing and fulfilment services. Aramex's integrated solutions effectively capitalised on this trend, reinforcing its competitive



Othman Aljeda
Chief Executive Officer
Aramex

advantage. Othman Aljeda, CEO, Aramex, said, "We are pleased to conclude 2024 with double-digit topline growth, reflecting continued momentum across our core business lines and market share gains across our key markets. We grew group revenues by 11 per cent YoY, driving our gross profitability up by 6 per cent YoY, resulting in a solid gross profit margin of 24 per cent." "A major industry shift this year has been the acceleration of nearshoring, with busi-



nesses repositioning inventory closer to their consumer markets to improve speed and flexibility. Aramex has a competitive advantage to cater to this trend, thanks to its integrated solutions," he added.

The International Express business experienced a 6.2% decline in Q4 2024 revenues, reflecting the shift of volume flows into domestic express due to nearshoring. Despite this, full-year revenue for International Express grew by 5%, with shipment volumes rising by 20% to 28 million.

“The trend fuelled demand for domestic express and intra-regional cross-border express services.”

Domestic Express reported a stellar performance, with revenues and volumes achieving double-digit growth in Q4 and the full year.

“What this means is that we are seeing demand for local deliveries through our domestic express solutions, and a shift from long-haul cross-border to intra-regional cross-border activity through our global express product and trucking business. Our margin profile has adapted, while the business grows at healthy levels. Gross profitability for our consolidated global and domestic express products was up 8 per cent. Our contract logistics product grew gross profitability by 8 per cent YoY, while forwarding was resilient with a 4 per cent decline in gross profitability due to increasing competition and industry pricing pressure as well as cost inflation,” he added. 📈

	Q4 2024	Q4 2023	% Change (YoY)	FY 2024	FY 2023	% Change (YoY)
Revenues	1,695,132	1,524,009	11%	6,324,444	5,694,022	11%
Gross Profit	398,609	388,727	3%	1,512,203	1,426,929	6%
Gross Profit Margin	23.5%	25.5%		23.9%	25.1%	
EBIT	89,186	106,191	(16%)	296,675	266,661	11%
EBIT Margin	5.3%	7.0%		4.7%	4.7%	
EBITDA	177,431	197,409	(10%)	650,304	627,732	4%
EBITDA Margin	10.5%	13.0%		10.3%	11.0%	
Net Profit	65,667	76,787	(14%)	141,811	129,297	10%
Net Profit Margin	3.9%	5.0%		2.2%	2.3%	

2025

Upcoming Events

APRIL


- 11 Brazil Supply Chain, Logistics & Procurement Summit
São Paulo, Brazil
- 15-17 World Cargo Symposium
Dubai, UAE
- 24-26 LogiMAT China
Shenzhen, China
- 9-11 ICAO Global Air Cargo Summit
Antalya, Turkey
- 22-24 Intermodal South America
Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 24-26 LogiMAT China
Shenzhen, China

MAY

- 6-8 Airport Show
Dubai, UAE
- 6-8 Sustainable Aviation Futures EU Congress
Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 12-15 Saudi Smart Logistics 2025
Riyadh, KSA
- 13-5 IATA Ground Handling Conference
Nairobi, Kenya
- 19-21 Gartner Supply Chain Symposium
Barcelona, Spain

For more information contact: talk@ddppl.com

The dates shown on the Events calendar are subject to change.

Please refer to EventTalk in  to track the changes in dates

Parcel enters KSA, brings tech-driven delivery solutions

Parcel has announced its expansion into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, leveraging its digital platform to connect with network of reliable, on-demand logistics services in KSA. Our mission is to empower businesses with tech solutions, says **Ali Dhaif**, CEO.

 CT Bureau

Since its inception, Parcel has played a crucial role in supporting Bahrain's local businesses by simplifying their delivery operations. With the same efficiency and convenience, the firm aims to replicate its success in Bahrain and empower businesses in KSA.

"Our mission has always been to empower businesses with simple, tech-driven solutions. By entering Riyadh, we are taking the first step in sharing our vision with the region, providing businesses with the tools to streamline their operations, reduce overheads, and enhance customer satisfaction," Ali Dhaif, Chief Executive Officer, Parcel, said.

He highlighted the platform is designed to support businesses of all sizes, offering them an easy-to-use and scalable solution to meet their delivery needs. "Through Parcel, the businesses can access an extensive network of driver on-demand, avoiding the need to hire and manage their own fleets. It is an easy-to-use platform that is tailored to support businesses of all sizes in their growth journey," he added.



Ali Dhaif
CEO
Parcel



Fajer Alpachachi
General Manager
Hope Ventures

“ We are sharing our vision with the region, providing businesses with technology tools to streamline their operations.”

It may be noted Parcel has collaborated with 3,000 businesses in the Kingdom of Bahrain for last-mile delivery services. Instead of hiring full-time drivers or managing their own fleets, Parcel enhanced efficiency and streamlined operations thereby making it a preferred choice for many businesses. Its impact is evident in completing over 1.5 million deliveries, a testa-

“ The firm has shown growth and traction since our initial investment, a testament to the capabilities of the founder.”

ment to the reliability and demand for its tech-driven logistics solutions.

"I am thrilled about Parcel's entry into the KSA market. The company has demonstrated remarkable growth and traction since our initial investment, a testament to the founders' exceptional capabilities and the strong strategic support they have received from their shareholders," asserted Fajer Alpachachi, General Manager, Hope Ventures, which is an investment partner of Parcel. As Parcel takes its first steps into KSA, last-mile delivery provides businesses with a smarter, cost-effective solution that enhances customer experience and operational efficiency. With a strong foundation in Bahrain, Parcel is poised to setting new benchmarks in logistics. 



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Swisslog gets US\$ 60 mn worth project value

Swisslog has achieved US\$ 60 million in project value with projects in the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia focusing on warehouse management software, pallet automation, small-volume goods solutions, and AutoStore systems, catering to the region's logistics needs, disclosed Rami Younes,



GM, Swisslog Middle East. "Our growth shows how much our customers' value having a local partner with an global footprint providing end-to-end solutions. After a decade in the region, we have built many relationships."

AJEX Logistics, Omni Llama to boost last-mile delivery

AJEX Logistics Services has partnered with Omni Llama to enhance its last-mile delivery (LMD) in KSA. Under the pact, AJEX will integrate Omni Llama's smart parcel locker network, offering customers flexibility with secure delivery options later this year, asserted Mohamed Albayati, Group CEO, AJEX Logistics



Services. "With online shopping booming, our pact with Omni Llama represents our commitment to elevate LMD in KSA. We also look forward to extending AJEX customers the option of receiving their deliveries to the Omni Llama parcel locker network."

SAL Logistics, stc Group to implement digital logistics solutions in KSA

SAL Logistics Services has signed an agreement with stc Group at the LEAP Conference to implement digital solutions and operational efficiency in logistics, aligning with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. Eng. Mohammed Al Sheikh, Chief Strategy, Development & Execution Officer, SAL, said. The pact is focusing on integrating AI, IoT, and automation to improve tracking systems, warehouse operations, and shipment monitoring. "As part of our customer-centric strategy, this agreement marks an important step towards enhancing the efficiency of logistics operations in the Kingdom. It also



contributes to strengthening the digital capabilities of our operational processes at our stations by integrating advanced digital solutions such as AI and IoT, re-

inforcing our commitment to customers and contributing to the development of the digital infrastructure for the logistics sector," he added

Ministry of Labour fortifies logistics workforce through Qatar Airways

The Ministry of Labour along with Qatar Airways Group develops national human capital and focuses on training and upskilling for Qatari job seekers in the logistics sector. This initiative aligns with the Ministry's efforts to equip university graduates with the skills required for private-sector employment. Mohammed Abdullah Fakhroo, Vice President, Nationalisation and Strategic Relations, Qatar Airways Group, remarked, "Qatar Airways Group is com-



mitted to empowering national talent and providing exceptional professional development opportunities in the aviation sector. Our collaboration with the

Ministry is a step toward qualifying young Qataris and equipping them with skill sets to succeed in this dynamic sector," he said. Mohammed Abdullah Fakhroo said through the High School Graduate Development Programme, we aim to prepare a new generation of aviation experts by offering world-class training, hands-on experience, and specialised guidance. We look forward to supporting them throughout their career journey within Group, he informed.

Ramco Systems with Fly Vaayu implements aviation software to enhance efficiency



Ramco Systems has partnered with Fly Vaayu to implement its advanced Aviation Software in enhancing operational efficiency. As part of the partnership, Fly Vaayu will leverage Ramco's inte-

grated digital platform, featuring modules for CAMO, Maintenance Planning, Line Maintenance, Supply Chain Management, and Finance & Accounting. These capabilities will streamline operations,

support business growth, and optimise the airline's expanding network, said Mujahid Hussain, Chief Information Officer, Fly Vaayu. "We are looking for a solution that would help us scale our operations and serve our customers with a robust digital infrastructure. Ramco Aviation Software's adaptability would augur well for customer offerings that Fly Vaayu plans to offer. We are confident that Ramco's latest technology will offer us a technological edge for our growing business."

Kale partners with El Dorado Airport for first digital Air Cargo Community System

Kale Info Solutions has teamed up with El Dorado International Airport in Bogotá, Colombia, to develop Latin America's first digital Air Cargo Community System (ACS), said Amar Moore, President, Kale. "The implementation of the Bogota ACS marks a significant stride towards achieving our global vision of a seamlessly connected logistics industry. It underscores our commitment to enhancing efficiency



and collaboration across borders," he added. As one of the region's largest and most connected air-

ports, BOG provides a gateway for Kale to expand its global presence in the Latin American market.

Scan Global Logistics opens new office in Tanzania



Scan Global Logistics has opened a new office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to tap into the growing demand driven by agriculture, mining, and infrastructure projects. The office will offer a range of services, including ocean, air, project, road, warehousing, customs clearance, and domestic and

transit solutions for supporting landlocked countries, said Jan Andersson, MD, Scan Global Logistics, Tanzania. "I am looking forward to entering the Tanzanian market, as it enables us to meet the growing demand from our customers. Since we entered Kenya a year ago, it has become evident

many of our customers have branches in Tanzania, presenting us with clear growth opportunities. I look forward to leading our efforts in Tanzania with the entrepreneurial spirit deeply rooted in our DNA, ensuring we deliver innovative solutions tailored to our customer's needs," he added.

Royal Air Maroc Cargo resumes Sino-Moroccan trade connection

Royal Air Maroc Cargo has reestablished a vital trade link between Morocco and China with its first flight from Casablanca to Beijing Daxing on January 20, 2025. The airline will operate three weekly Boeing 787-9 cargo flights, offering a 30-tonne capacity each way. The return flights to Casablanca will run on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, ensuring fast transit, full tracking transparency, and reliable long-term transport solutions. Yassine Berrada, vice pres-



ident, cargo at Royal Air Maroc, said, "At the Royal Air Maroc, we are proud to go even further, building Casablanca up as a true

air bridge between Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Our newly launched, thrice-weekly service out of the largest airport of China, not only provides a highly efficient service for Chinese goods destined for Africa but also offers a direct onward connection to Brazil, thanks to our recently commenced Sao Paulo (GRU) air route."

UPS Healthcare opens new cross-docking facilities

UPS Healthcare has opened three specialised cross-docking facilities in Milan, Frankfurt, and Mexico City to improve pharma shipment support. The Frankfurt facility, near Frankfurt Airport and UPS's European air hub in Cologne, offers temperature-controlled storage ranging from 15°C to 25°C, commented Fe-



lipe Morgulis, President, Global Logistics and Distribution, UPS Healthcare. "Through our integrated, end-to-end offering, we can take products from clinical trials to the patient, simplifying supply chains and building resiliency."

Carousel Logistics opens new cargo hub at Birmingham

Carousel Logistics has launched a new facility at Birmingham Airport, tripling its cargo handling capacity. The hub aims to streamline operations and cut up to 50,000 miles of road transport annually, said Andrew Lowery, MD, United Kingdom, Carousel Logistics. "Our new facility at the airport will allow us to handle greater volumes within the same tight time



window. Located near the M42 and M6 motorways, Birmingham International Station, new HS2 links, and our electric rail freight partner Varamis Rail, this investment will improve line haul times and reduce carbon footprint."

FedEx launches new shipping tool to streamline global imports

FedEx unveiled the Collaborative Shipping Tool, a digital innovation designed to simplify the import process for businesses globally, said Salil Chari, Senior VP, Marketing and Customer Experience, FedEx Asia Pacific. The new tool can improve efficiency of AWB creation by enabling seamless collaboration between importers and shippers, facilitating smoother global trade operations. “At FedEx, we are leading the way by leveraging digital innovation to help our customers anticipate challenges and navigate the changing marketplace. The new tool fosters seamless collaboration between importers and shippers, allowing businesses to optimise their supply chains and reduce inefficiencies,” he added.



Istanbul Airport becomes Europe’s busiest air cargo hub in 2024



As per the Airports International Council’s 2024 Annual Traffic Report, Istanbul Airport has emerged as Europe’s top air cargo hub. The airport processed 1.97 million tonnes of freight, marking a 40 per cent increase from the previous year, commented Abulkadir Uraloğlu, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Turkey. “Istanbul Airport has moved to the top of Europe with 1.97 million tonnes, leaving Frankfurt, known as Europe’s largest cargo airport, behind. Our airport grew by 39.6 per cent in cargo transportation compared to 2023,” he added.

Swissport starts cargo handling ops in Australia and New Zealand



Swissport International is expanding its air cargo handling operations in Australia and New Zealand with new facilities in Melbourne, Sydney, and a newly acquired site in Auckland, set to open in late March 2025. This expansion aims to boost capacity and improve operational efficiency for airline customers and forwarders, averred Joel Greig, GM, Cargo, Australia & New Zealand, Swissport. “Swissport is ready to support the rapidly growing cargo demand in Australia and New Zealand, enabling businesses to thrive.”

Alaska, Hawaiian Air Cargo to provide bellies for transpacific airlines

Alaska Air Cargo and Hawaiian Air Cargo will provide belly capacity on new transpacific routes. Hawaiian Airlines will launch daily nonstop flights between Seattle and Tokyo Narita in May, with Seattle-Seoul Incheon service, starting in October. Ian Morgan, VP, Cargo, Alaska Airlines. “Together, Alaska Air Cargo and Hawaiian Air Cargo serve three times more linking markets than either of us could reach alone. With our combined team’s expertise across the Pacific to Asia and linking the West Coast across the country, we are poised to support customers around the world.”



DHL, Scania launch hybrid electric truck to overcome logistics challenges

DHL Group and Scania have developed an Extended Range Electric Vehicle (EREV), combining battery-electric power with a fuel-powered generator, said Tobias Meyer, CEO, DHL Group. “It is going to take some time before renewable electricity, the grid and charging infrastructure are available and robust enough to rely fully on battery-electric trucks, especially for a large-scale system such as the German parcel net-



work of DHL. Instead of waiting for this day to come, DHL and Scania are collaborating on a pragmatic solution for making logistics sustainable and slash carbon footprint by 80 per cent. Such reductions should be reflected in the road toll pricing and EU fleet emission scheme. We see this collaboration as a successful innovation project of two companies committed to battle climate change,” he added.



Trendsetters of the month



Aramex

Aramex's recent video post showcasing the beauty of Ramadan, emphasising shared values of peace and love, gathered



6.3M views
2,500 likes

DHL

DHL posted a video interview with an entrepreneur who utilises DHL GoTrade for her business. The video went viral, amassing



2.6M views
3.1K likes



Emirates SkyCargo

The BTS reel video of designing brand new Emirates SkyCargo livery went viral with



750K views
48.8K likes

FedEx

FedEx's recent campaign video, 'Moment of Plen,' highlighting the "pure bliss of delivering," garnered

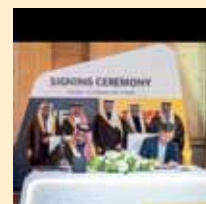


22K views
1.1K likes



AJEX

The post about AJEX Logistics Services collaborating with DHL e-commerce to enter the KSA market received



1.5k likes
38 shares

Riyadh Air

The partnership post between Riyadh Air and SGS for ground handling services across airports in KSA garnered



1.5K likes
45 reposts

AI advancing your cargo business



Sparkle AI: Your smart assistant for effortless file organisation

Managing files efficiently is crucial for productivity. Keeping your computer organised can be a daunting task with the constant influx of documents and downloads. Download Sparkle—an AI-powered tool designed to organise your files, ensuring a clutter-free workspace automatically.

Intelligent file management

Sparkle is more than just a file organiser; it is an intelligent assistant that adapts to your workflow. By leveraging advanced AI algorithms, Sparkle creates a personalised folder system, meticulously sorting new and existing files into their appropriate places. Whether it is your downloads,

desktop, or documents folders, Sparkle manages them seamlessly, so you do not have to.

What sets Sparkle apart?

Unlike traditional file management tools, Sparkle offers a comprehensive solution tailored to individual needs:

- ❖ **Customisable organisation:** Choose which folders Sparkle manages. By default, it organises your desktop, documents,

and downloads, but you can add any additional folders as needed

- ❖ **Intelligent folder structure:** Upon setup, Sparkle creates three subfolders—Recents: Houses newly added files for three days before organising them. AI Library: Contains all files organised by Sparkle's AI, ensuring everything is in its rightful place. Manual Library: Stores pre-existing folders and any items you prefer to manage manually

- ❖ **Privacy first:** Sparkle organises files based on their names without opening, reading, or downloading them. Additionally, any file name data stored is deleted every 30 days, ensuring your information remains confidential

- ❖ **Seamless integration:** Designed exclusively

for Mac users, Sparkle integrates effortlessly into your existing system, enhancing your workflow without disruption

Pro tip: To maximise efficiency, regularly review your Recents folder. This practice ensures that new files are appropriately categorised, allowing Sparkle to learn and adapt to your preferences more effectively.

Experience effortless organisation with Sparkle

Say goodbye to digital clutter and hello to a streamlined workspace. With Sparkle, file management becomes a hands-free experience, allowing you to focus on what truly matters.

Note: Sparkle is currently available exclusively for Mac users. A free seven-day trial is offered, with unlimited access for every subscriber.



Movements



ATS SHIPPING LLC UAE

Rizwan Kareem has been appointed Director, Air Freight Operations, ATS Shipping LLC. He managed air and sea freight ops. His leadership aims to enhance operational efficiency and solidify ATS Shipping's position in the market.

JETTAINER UAE

Steffen Fessler has been appointed as the Head, Cool ULD, by Jettainer to oversee cool&fly, the company's cool ULD management service. Jettainer's service ensures seamless cool ULD leasing, positioning, and also monitoring.



GLOBAL GSA GROUP Netherlands

Zafer Aggunduz has been appointed as the CCO of Global GSA Group. He joined the company in 2011. In his new role, Aggunduz will oversee the company's global commercial strategy with a focus on strengthening airline partnerships.

GEODIS France

Jean-Benoit Divulges has been appointed as the Group General Counsel in GEODIS. Divulges has also joined the ADDS Management Board. He is also a member of the Executive Board alongside Lombard and David-Olivier Tarac.



KUEHNE + NAGEL Qatar

Chris Fowlie has been appointed as the Area Manager, Qatar and Iraq, K+N. Based in Doha, he will focus on growth. He relocated to Qatar in 2022 to support Project Logistics. His leadership aligns with K+N Roadmap 2026 and Vision 2030.

GEODIS Germany

Antje Lochmann has been appointed as the new Managing Director, GEODIS Freight Forwarding Germany. She joined GEODIS in 2011, has held roles in sales, marketing, key accounts, and tender management.



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