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September 2023

CARGO talk

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CARGO
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MAKING MIDDLE EAST AIRPORTS CARGO HUBS OF TOMORROW



Airports in the ME have shown potential as cargo hubs. In fact, airports in the GCC region have witnessed a 4.3% growth annually. Cargo volumes are estimated to double in the region. Like their global peers, the airports aspire to overcome project development challenges through effective stakeholder collaborations.

 Abigail Mathias

The upsurge in cargo numbers is a reflection of the strategic efforts to promote the travel sectors, and further solidify the GCC's position as global destinations. According to official reports Sharjah Airport is planning to increase its capacity to 20 million passengers by 2026. By implementing cutting-edge technologies and solutions that improve daily operations and fostering connectivity to various destinations, the region competes with the best worldwide.

As the global air cargo security landscape continues to evolve, there has been significant increase in the number of stringent rules to keep goods moving safely and efficiently.





Air cargo serves as the backbone of global trade, offering the quickest way to transport goods across the globe. With growth of e-commerce leading to consumers

expecting their goods to be delivered at speed, time is becoming an essential component of the global supply chain. Manufacturers have also started to shift their operations to Dubai

to take advantage of the city's modern infrastructure, progressive policies, central location, and building local distribution centres to serve their global customer base.



Another opportunity we are exploring is creating long-term contracts with these manufacturers to ensure they can get new goods on the shelves on a weekly basis, an evolution from the previous monthly product cycle.

Under D33, the Dubai government has outlined a bold strategy to double its foreign trade and the opportunity for Emirates SkyCargo is clear in this regard. Over the next decade, we will double our capacity and expand our freighter network with 20 new destinations to keep moving goods to and through Dubai.

Emirates SkyCargo's world-class facilities have set us apart. With two latest cargo terminals across our dual-hub airport, we can offer transit



Jeffrey Van Haeften
Senior Vice President, Cargo Commercial Worldwide, Emirates SkyCargo

“With two latest cargo terminals across our dual-hub airport, we can offer transit times of as little as 3 hours air-to-air.”

times of as little as three hours air-to-air. Both airports are near Dubai and are connected 24x7 trucking network in order to facilitate the efficient transit of cargo. With a cargo capacity of 2.3 million tonnes per annum, Emirates SkyCargo facilities offer cool chain capacity, including the world's largest EU GDP-certified pharma hub to transport the most sensitive of cargo safely and securely.

These facilities are complemented by our vast network. As the cargo arm of the world's largest global airline, we harness Emirates' international network and schedule multiple daily flights on wide-body passenger planes in a bid to provide flexibility and choices for our customers to get their cargo where it needs to go.



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

The challenge of working with global airports is operational windows. When these operational windows are incompatible with freighter schedules, Etihad Cargo works with customers, partners, and airports to find solutions that ensure cargo can be transported to its final

destinations within the required timeframes.

It is this collaboration that has enabled Etihad Cargo build strong relationships with many international airports. Working closely with global airports has allowed it to build operational resilience and mitigate the risk of disruptions.

In case of delays or disruptions, Etihad Cargo offers customers an alternative airport so operations can proceed uninterrupted. Another opportunity presented by working with global airports is taking a holistic approach in partnership with airports to expand and create hubs, enabling Etihad to offer cargo capacity across key routes across the globe.

With the COVID era mostly behind us, Etihad Cargo has recovered its pre-pandemic network and is now focusing on enhancing cargo operations through additional frequencies. Etihad Cargo is now adding

new routes and offering more scheduled flights in a order to expand the carrier's cargo capacity. Also, Etihad Cargo has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions to boost effi-

“In case of delays or disruptions, Etihad Cargo offers customers an alternative airport so that operations can proceed uninterrupted.”

ciency, digitize and standardize cargo handling across the network, and enhance service levels for the carrier's customers and partners. The carrier is utilizing AI to improve the quality

of operations through the integration of the third dimension to generate ULD load plans to maximize cargo carried on its flights and reduce the risk of needing to offload a shipment due to overbooking or having to load cargo.

Etihad Cargo's commitment to being the air cargo partner of choice means we take a customer-centric approach and prioritize meeting our partners' needs. In addition to putting quality and world-class customer service at the forefront of everything we do, the carrier tailors its eight-strong premium product range and evaluates its network to maximize capacity and provide cargo solutions. We also innovate, develop and launch new tools and initiatives to enhance our offering. Our unique product portfolio has enabled the cargo carrier to offer our partners and customers a comprehensive range of products that can be customized to their unique needs.





Ioannis Metsovitis
Senior Vice President, Operations
Hamad International Airport

Hamad International Airport, through our fully automated warehouse facility, has a capacity of 1.4 million tonnes annually. Cargo is the big revenue contributor, and we expect cargo movement to grow. Therefore, as part of

Phase B of our expansion plan, which started this January, is the Cargo Terminal 2, which will be a dedicated transfer cargo facility that can handle as many as 3.3 million tonnes of cargo per annum.

This cargo facility will be a safe, smart, and green facility relying heavily on technology and automation for its material handling, and will offer faster storage and retrieval, cargo processing and enable us to offer shorter connection for the growing demand of transit cargo.

The airport continues to include sustainability in its growth strategy by implementing measures to reduce waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise pollution. The new Cargo Terminal 2 will be built on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating framework, which is the widely used green building rat-

“Cargo is the biggest revenue contributor, so we started Cargo Terminal 2. It will be a transfer cargo facility that can handle 3.3 million tonnes of cargo.”

ing system in the world. Available for virtually all building types, LEED provides a framework for healthy, efficient, and cost-saving green buildings.

e-commerce movement has increased since the pandemic and post pandemic, we saw e-commerce continue to soar. Due to this, there will be

more demand and Qatar Airways Cargo has the right fleet for this purpose. With international supply chains, e-commerce under pressure and demand growing for e-commerce, the performance of the fleet is more important than ever and so, Boeing airplanes make up to 90 per cent of our dedicated freighter fleet. Sustainability is a vital pillar in our operations, and we drive sustainability and encourage stakeholders to do so.

Qatar Airways Cargo has adopted progressive and innovative strategies. Our revenue management, commercial network planning and cargo teams work in cooperation to create a successful model since the pandemic. Since cargo has always been a crucial part of the Hamad International Airport's operations, we continue to assess the market demands and business potential to support additional freighter routes.



Nadia Abdul Aziz
President, National Association of Freight and Logistics

Airports in the Middle East region can play a vital role in making cargo hubs efficient by implementing a combination of measures. Here are ways they can contribute:

Advanced technology: by deploying Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID), Internet of Things (IoT), and real-

time tracking systems can enhance cargo visibility, reduce handling times, and improve overall efficiency. Smart cargo management systems can help monitor cargo flows.

Integrated logistics: The Middle Eastern airports must collaborate with logistics providers to offer integrated services such as warehousing, distribution, and last-mile connectivity, and reduce transit times.

Operational efficiency: by optimizing ground handling operations, implementing efficient cargo sorting, routing processes, adopting lean management principles, reducing bottlenecks, and optimizing workflows can improve efficiency.

Capacity expansion: expanding airport capacity based on growing demand. Ensuring that infra can handle rising volumes helps prevent congestion and ensures smooth operations.

Training and skill development: invest in training programmes for cargo handlers,

customs officials, and logistics personnel to enhance their skills and keep up with industry best practices.

Sustainability: implementing practices, such as using electric ground handling equipment and optimizing energy con-

“Implement practices, such as using electric ground handling tools among others to reduce the environmental impact of cargo operations.”

sumption in order to reduce the environmental impact of the cargo operations, while potentially lowering cargo and logistics costs.

E-COMMERCE ASSISTANCE

e-commerce has a significant impact on making cargo hubs more efficient in the Middle East region by driving demand for streamlined logistics, technological innovation, and improved infrastructure.

Here is how the e-commerce contributes to increased efficiency in the cargo hubs. Here are some examples:

1. Increased cargo volume
2. Demand for speed by customers
3. Adopting technology
4. Partnerships
5. Incentives for infrastructure investment

Through these measures, Middle Eastern cargo hubs can become more efficient, attract new businesses, and strengthen their role as essential components of the international trade network.

The trade agreements between countries will further enhance this role and increase the business volumes.





Chaminda Perera
General Manager, Cargo
SriLankan Cargo

Yields within the air cargo industry skyrocketed during COVID. In the present context, however, a drastic yield erosion is being experienced by air cargo carriers globally, including SriLankan Cargo, which is a key player in the regional industry.

On the other hand, there have been some positive developments such as increasing market opportunities in the e-commerce space. SriLankan Cargo offers a secure e-commerce platform for shippers with seamless connections between airports.

Passenger flights all but ceased during COVID, causing constraints for freighters, but with passenger traffic normalizing the situation has steadily improved. The situation has been helped by operators converting passenger aircraft to dedicated cargo aircraft.

“The need for e-Booking platforms grew during COVID creating an effective operating model that continues to enable cargo carriers.”

The need for e-Booking platforms grew during this period creating an effective operating model that continues to enable cargo carriers to enhance market reach and service delivery.

The supply chain of SriLankan Cargo facilitates air transportation of consignments from airport to

airport globally swiftly and reliably. Our best-in-class facilities mean that consignments will be secured and conserved from acceptance to delivery.

We are in the process of partnering with e-Booking platforms and to introduce a door to door delivery service in specific markets. 🇨🇦

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Are **cargo** and **courier** working in tandem?

International courier companies in the GCC countries handle air cargo and utilize different modes of transportation to ferry their packages. They are dedicated to ensuring all our solutions are environmentally friendly and contribute to a greener future. What makes them work in tandem, **CARGO talk** explores.



 Abigail Mathias

Cargo companies are usually used for bulk cargo or those that need special handling and management. They can handle large cargos and send them anywhere in the world. Depending on the products transported can hike the costs.

Courier companies are suitable for documents and small items and those that are very valuable. Most, if not all, courier companies have websites where you can browse the services they offer and their cost.

They are usually either just courier or cargo companies or both. The biggest courier companies usually also handle cargos, and they utilize different modes of transporting their packages and cargos.

MARY OXLEY

Currently, the opportunities in air freight for DHL Global Forwarding revolve around decarbonization. Approximately 16 per cent of global CO₂ emissions stem from transportation, with the sector contributing billions of metric tonnes of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere annually.



Mary Oxley
Vice President, Sales, DHL Global Forwarding Middle East, and Africa

“ ‘myDHLi’ customer portal grants customers access to our complete range of transport offerings.”

However, biofuels such as sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) have the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of air freight, benefiting both the industry and shippers. In fact, sustainability and environmentally friendly transportation are increasingly becoming important and have an advantage, as customers and consumers demonstrate a growing awareness of sustainability.

At DHL Global Forwarding, we are committed to cultivating a sustainable workplace and realigning our personnel policies to be entirely sustainable. The objective extends beyond providing green solutions: we are dedicated to ensuring that all our solutions are environmentally friendly and contribute to a greener future.

Through our GoGreen Plus service, we offer DHL Global Forwarding customers a convenient option to reduce their



Supriya Salve
Partner
Vegat Logistics services LLC

“ Combining cargo and courier services ensures smooth transition from long-distance transportation to local delivery.”

CO₂ emissions, while utilizing SAF and Sustainable Marine Fuel. This carbon reduction is achieved by procuring sustainable fuels through partnerships and matching the consumption with our customers’ needs. The ‘book and claim’ mechanism eliminates the need for physical traceability of fuel throughout the supply chain. This is because the environmental attributes of sustainable fuels, such as SAF, are separate from the physical fuel itself and can be purchased independently. However, with the increasing demand, there is a critical need to scale up availability of sustainable fuels.

FREIGHT FORWARDERS USP

DHL Global Forwarding’s distinction lies in its global network, complemented by the expertise of its specialists across all regions. Through reliable partnerships with major air freight carriers, we of-



Moe Abeidat
Vice President, Technology
Aramex

“Large firms adopt intermodal transportation, switching between air, sea, and road modes.”

fer our customers ample air freight capacity at a reasonable cost. We also provide a range of value-added services, encompassing track and trace solutions, consolidation, and deconsolidation services as well as customs, pickup, and delivery services for both initial and final stages of transportation. Boosted by our comprehensive carbon intelligence and sustainability solutions, we empower our customers to effectively serve their markets and foster business growth. Our digital solutions, such as ‘myDHLi’ customer portal, grants our customers access to our complete range of transport offerings. Simultaneously, they gain complete transparency not only pertaining to shipments, but also regarding all associated data and documents.

SUPRIYA SALVE
Courier and cargo services



Lothar Moehle
Executive Director
Cargo iQ

“The stakeholders in the air cargo industry are collaborating closely, despite several different operators.”

can work in tandem within the logistics and transportation industry, each fulfilling different roles while contributing to the overall movement of goods and packages. Let us explore how these two services can work together and their significance in the industry, as well

as how larger companies in the GCC region handle air cargo and utilize various modes of transportation.

Specialization: Couriers often specialize in fast and small-scale deliveries, catering to individual customers and smaller businesses. Cargo services typically handle larger shipments, bulk goods, and freight. By collaborating, they can provide a complete range of transportation solutions.

Last-Mile Delivery: Couriers excel in LMD, ensuring that packages reach their final destinations promptly. Cargo services focus on the transportation of goods between cities or countries. Combining these services ensures smooth transitions from long-distance transportation to local delivery.

Efficiency and speed: Couriers emphasize speed, making them suitable for time-sensitive deliveries. Cargo services handle larger volumes and can optimize routes for cost-effectiveness. By coordinating these services, companies can maintain efficiency while accommodating various delivery requirements.

RELATIONSHIP

The relationship between courier and cargo services is vital for several reasons:

Comprehensive solutions: The collaboration allows companies to offer comprehensive

logistics solutions, catering to a wide range of customer needs.

Flexibility: Customers benefit from flexible options, whether they require rapid courier services or cost-effective cargo transport.

Supply chain optimization: Companies can optimize their supply chain by utilizing the strengths of both services, ensuring efficient transportation from start to finish.

Market reach: This collaboration enhances market reach, enabling businesses to target various segments, from individual consumers to corporate clients.

TRANSPORTATION IN GCC

In the GCC region, air cargo plays a vital role due to its strategic location, international trade, and growing economies. Larger companies in the GCC often utilize a combination of transportation modes for their cargo and packages:

Air freight: Air cargo is crucial for rapid international shipments and connecting the GCC countries with global markets. Major airports, such as Dubai International Airport and Hamad International Airport in Qatar, serve as key hubs for air freight.

Sea freight: The GCC’s proximity to major shipping routes makes sea freight





an important mode of transportation, particularly for bulk goods and trade with distant markets.

Road transportation:

Well-developed road networks within the GCC facilitate land-based transportation for courier and cargo services, supporting regional trade.

Intermodal transport:

Many larger companies adopt intermodal transportation, seamlessly switching between air, sea, and road modes to optimize efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

MOE ABEIDAT

Aramex has become the first logistics company in the GCC region to test live tracking for last mile delivery, using the Mobility Services from Google Maps Platform and in partnership with OniGroup.

At Aramex, we are always excited by new technology in-

novation opportunities to optimize our operations and offer more fulfilling experiences to customers by harnessing new frontiers in technology.

The latest iteration of this is the roll out of the beta testing for live tracking for last mile delivery in the GCC, where we are deploying predictive Artificial Intelligence (AI) along with the latest navigation technology in collaboration with Google and OniGroup, to drive digital transformation across the region's logistics ecosystem.

The innovative live tracking functionality not only expands our digital capabilities but will focus on elevating three parallel experiences which are: keeping our customers engaged and informed, keeping our Delivery Champions on track throughout the day with a much more improved experience, and keeping our fleet performing at its peak to better serve our customers.

LOTHAR MOEHLE

Overall, there are different definitions as to what a courier shipment is. I am excluding any 'On-Board Courier' shipment, as they require a totally different process and handling. Typically, the on-board courier is travelling as a passenger in the aircraft and any goods OBC is handled by the airline as luggage.

Other urgent shipments often defined as courier, express, or expedited services are typically small in size, e.g. 32 kg maximum weight, with measurement curbs per package. These types of courier services are offered by the well-known integrator service operators, which are easily distinguishable by their corporate colour.

These integrator services are handling all activities, such as collection from shipper, handling in warehouse, loading cargo into unit load devices (ULDs), and the aircraft operation and of

final delivery by themselves. For these operations, they use their own planning and measuring systems. There is the perception that these services are quicker than the forwarder-airline offering, although that is not always the case.

Stakeholders in the air cargo industry are collaborating closely, despite several different operators being involved in the movement of the freight. Due to sharing the transport plan and data exchange in real time for status updates, the cooperation among Cargo iQ members can be described as "virtually integrated services".

However, very often even integrators with their own network of flight operations are using regular airlines. In these instances, the integrators are handing over the shipments like any other consolidator or forwarder to the airline and they are issuing a standard master air waybill.



Prashanth Balakrishnan
General Manager
Orient Cargo

“The rise of e-commerce led to an increased demand for air cargo services, especially for time-sensitive deliveries.”

In this scenario, the Cargo iQ methodology is available to integrator companies and the airlines they are using. As a matter of fact, frequently, the airline used is a Cargo iQ member and they are applying the Cargo iQ standards, even if the integrator is not a Cargo iQ member.

It is well known that integrators offer typical forwarding services in a different company or business model. In cooperation with the respective airlines (often Cargo iQ members), they are operating in a traditional forwarder-airline environment.

On the other hand, there are also forwarding companies offering typical courier services to their customers—as a one-stop-shop—in cooperation with the airlines but even in cooperation with courier / integrator companies for last-mile deliveries (LMDs).

Overall, there is a trend of cooperation among the forwarder – airline – integrator communities, which is often not clearly visible to the goods owners. This cooperation has grown successfully over the years. The common denominator is that all parties are ultimately working to satisfy their customers’ requirements for high quality standards.

PRASHANTH BALAKRISHNAN

Orient Cargo, as a company operating in the air cargo industry, likely faces a combination of challenges and opportunities. Here are some of the main ones:

CHALLENGES:

- **Global economic conditions:** fluctuations in the global economy can impact cargo demand. Economic downturns may lead to reduced consumer spending and manufacturing activity, affecting the need for air freight services
- **Fuel costs fluctuation:** Fluctuation of fuel costs can impact operational costs and profitability
- **Regulatory compliance:** The air cargo industry is subject to

a range of global and local regulations, including safety, security, and customs procedures. Ensuring compliance can be complex and time-consuming

- **Security concerns:** Adhering to security protocols and preventing theft, tampering, and illegal trafficking is a continuous challenge
- **Capacity constraints:** limited airport infrastructure and available cargo space on aircraft can lead to capacity constraints, especially during peak seasons.
- **Technological advancement:** keeping up with tech advancements is essential for efficiency and competitiveness. Companies need to invest in tracking and management systems to optimize operations
- **Competition:** the air cargo industry is competitive, with numerous players vying for market share. Differentiating Orient Cargo’s services and maintaining customer loyalty is vital

OPPORTUNITIES:

- **e-commerce growth:** the rise of e-commerce has led to an increased demand for

air cargo services, especially for time-sensitive deliveries. Orient Cargo is tapping this opportunity by offering specialized services

- **emerging markets:** air cargo presents opportunities in emerging markets where transportation infrastructure might be less developed. We are catering to growing demand in these regions.
- **supply chain integration:** by providing end-to-end supply chain solutions, we are becoming a more comprehensive partner for businesses looking for seamless logistics solutions
- **technological innovation:** Leveraging advanced technologies such as IoT, data analytics, and automation can enhance efficiency and customer experience. Real-time tracking, and process automation set Orient Cargo apart from its competitors
- **Collaboration with airlines:** building strong partnerships with airlines and a cargo-focused approach is helping Orient Cargo access new routes, expand network, and optimize cargo capacity 🚚

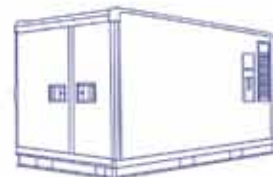


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Arabian Cargo Awards: The countdown begins

The first Arabian Cargo Awards, organized by the DDP Group, will be a gala that celebrates the unsung heroes who have moulded the air cargo and logistics industry into what it stands as today—an indomitable force to be reckoned with.



 Abigail Mathias

The Arabian Cargo Awards, to be held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Dubai in October-end this year, will provide a unique platform to acknowledge those who stand out for their remarkable contributions and those who are shaping the future

nating deserving candidates, the companies can contribute to fostering growth, inspiring innovation, and setting new benchmarks of excellence.

GLITZY EVENT

The Arabian Cargo Awards will be a gala that will celebrate the individuals who have moulded the industry into

the pioneering internet-based voting system for awards, ensuring impartiality and equity.

With the esteemed backing of premier media partners, including CargoTV, News, **CARGO talk**, and Cargo Breaking News, these awards commemorate the triumphs of the Middle East's cargo and logistics



This event serves as an occasion to pay homage to the trailblazers of the cargo industry

of the air cargo and logistics industry. The glittering event will celebrate the outstanding achievements and recognize the contribution of the industry experts.

As a key player in the air cargo and logistics sector, industry experts have been invited to be a part of this prestigious occasion by nominating individuals, companies, or projects that have demonstrated exceptional dedication and innovation within the field. Nominating for the Arabian Cargo Awards is not just about recognition; it is about highlighting the exceptional efforts that drive the industry forward. By nomi-

what it stands as today—an indomitable force to be reckoned with. This extraordinary event, bathed in glitz and glamour, serves as an occasion to recognize, and pay homage to the trailblazers of the cargo industry. Participation and nominations play a crucial role in making the Arabian Cargo Awards, which is a true reflection of the industry's achievements.

“These awards are poised to define the yardstick for excellence within the cargo industry. We acknowledge the dedication of those working behind the scenes, offering motivation and applause for their invaluable services,” said SanJeet, Director, DDP Group.

THE CEREMONY

Anchored in a distinctive blend of jury judgment and voting, these awards embody a beacon of fairness and impartiality. Join us in recognizing the unsung heroes, the trailblazers, and the innovators who shaped the logistics and cargo landscape. The event promises an evening of honour, inspiration, and networking. The Arabian Cargo Awards represent

sector. To learn more about the awards, categories, and submission guidelines, please visit our website www.arabiancargoawards.ae.

Take part in this prestigious event by nominating individuals, companies, or projects deserving of acknowledgement for their remarkable contributions in the cargo and logistics field. Your nomination signifies a commitment to honouring excellence and nurturing industry advancement.

NOMINATIONS

- **Submit your entry:** complete the nomination form online at www.arabiancargoawards.ae
- **Qualification check:** each entry will be carefully reviewed to ensure its eligibility for the chosen category(s)
- **Voting phase:** once the nominations are officially published, nominees can proudly announce their nomination(s) and initiate marketing campaigns to garner support



Global **air cargo** rates continue to plummet



Going into the usually critical winter season rates negotiation period, we are already seeing more shippers relaunching contract negotiations with their logistics service providers so as to push down air freight rates, says **Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer, Xeneta.**



Niall van de Wouw
Chief Airfreight Officer
Xeneta

TCT Bureau

Shippers will hold the upper hand in the next round of winter airfreight rates negotiations after another month of falling demand in July saw volumes drop -2% month-over-month, and the general global air freight spot rate decline at a hastening pace of 40% or more for a fourth consecutive month, according to the latest weekly market analysis by CLIVE Data Services, part of Xeneta.

Last month saw global air cargo capacity recover by +7% compared to a year ago,

as airlines' summer schedules stepped up to meet heightened passenger traffic. In line with this, the July global average dynamic load factor, which measures cargo load factor based on both volume and weight perspectives of cargo flown and capacity available, was at 55%, on a par with June 2023 but -3% pts below the level of a year ago.

More capacity at a time of falling volumes placed added pressure on airfreight rates.

The -41% drop in July versus the same month in 2022, pushed the average air

cargo spot rate down to USD 2.20 per kg. This compares to a rate of USD 2.31 per kg recorded in June.

"The month of July rarely provides any surprises in terms of unexpected performance levels in the global air cargo market, but what will be concerning airlines and forwarders is the constant month-on-month decline in average rates, and the quickening pace of this fall since the turn of the year," says Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer at Xeneta. "Going into the usually critical winter rates negotiation period, it's clear shippers will have



which reflect the reality of today's freight market and the expectation that the current market environment could continue for the foreseeable future into 2024." The key question for all stakeholders monitoring the global air cargo market demand is: 'how low will it go?'

Looking at weekly developments in July, the global air cargo spot rate bottomed out in the second week of the month, while in the final week, ending on 30 July, it ticked up 3%, possibly reflecting an easing decline in cargo volumes and slower paced growth in capacity versus previous months.

In addition, the recent rise in jet fuel prices might also have contributed to the increase, having already been seen in some shippers' monthly rate revisions. But the uptick in jet fuel surcharge will likely not manage to stick and provide any meaningful impact on freight rates, as demand and supply dynamics for the general air freight market remain unchanged. With shippers enjoying leveraging their

the upper hand. We are already seeing more shippers relaunching contract negotiations with their logistics service providers to push down airfreight rates. Shippers are also looking to

“The key question for the air cargo market demand is: ‘how low will it go?’

agree longer, 12-month commitments to reduce their costs. Airlines will know they can expect the same pricing turbulence from forwarders.

“The airfreight rates merry-go-round will be intense this winter, as we have indicated in previous months' analyses. Many freight forwarders, who at the peak of the pandemic chose multi-year contracts to secure airline capacity, are now reportedly bleeding cash, so they are under significant pressure to renegotiate rates

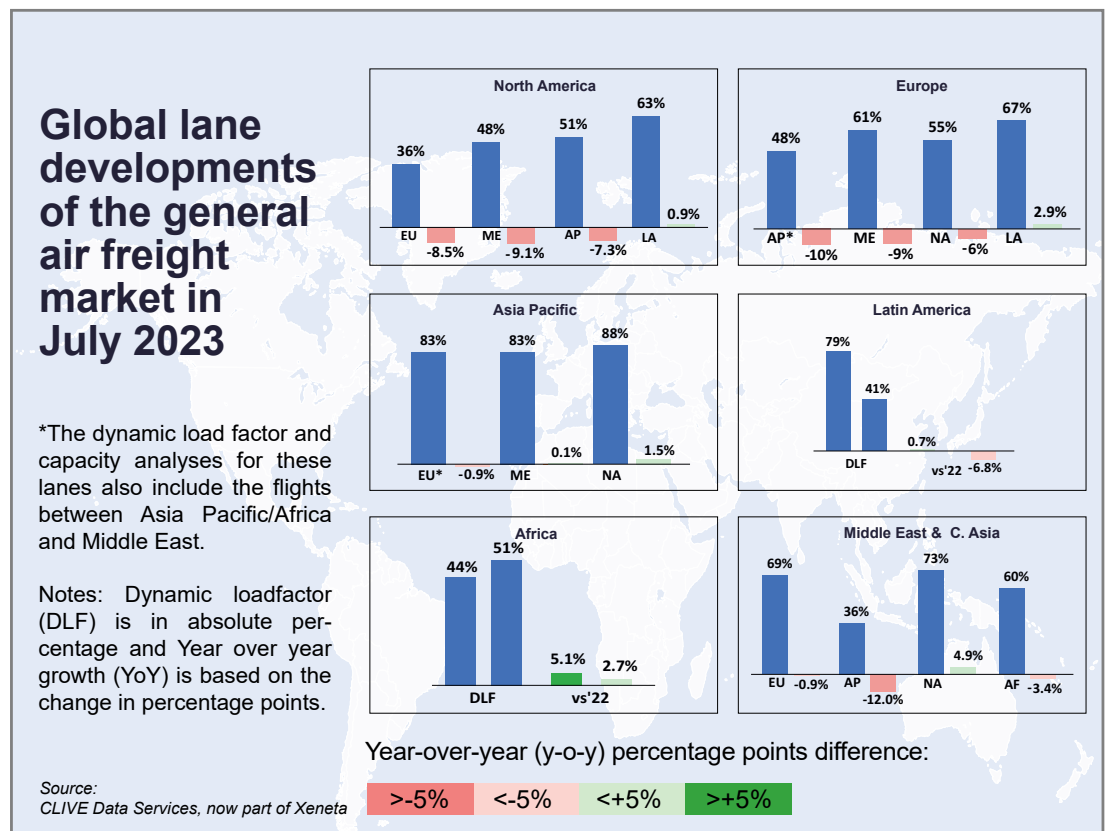
Global summary of the general air freight market in July 2023			
Region	Dynamic load factor		
	Jul '23	vs Jul '22	vs Jun '23
	Abs. in %	Change in p.pts %	Change in p.pts %
Global	55	- 3.3	- 0.2
Outbound:			
Asia Pacific	69	- 1.6	+1.0
North America	46	- 3.3	- 2.2
Europe	57	- 6.0	+1.9
Middle East & Central Asia	54	- 3.1	+0.5
Latin America	59	- 2.7	- 3.1
Africa	47	+ 4.1	- 2.1

Source: CLIVE Data Services, now part of Xeneta

enhanced buying power after the pricing pain of the pandemic, Xeneta expects a push back on the fuel surcharge adjustments, too.

Zooming into the corridor level, Northeast Asia (including China) trade lanes regis-

tered the biggest rate declines compared to last year. Both China to the USA and USA to China air freight spot rates fell 60 per cent from a year ago. China to Europe and Europe to China took the third and fourth places, with spot rates down over 55 per cent year-on-year.





Air cargo contraction eases in June: IATA

Cargo capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers, rose 9.7% compared to June 2022, which was a slower rate compared to double-digit growth recorded between March and May, says **Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA**. Demand in June was only 2.4% below June 2019, he adds.

 CT Bureau

IATA released data for June 2023 global air cargo markets showing the smallest year-over-year contraction in demand since February 2022.

Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), fell 3.4 per cent in June compared to June 2022 (-3.7% for international operations). For the half year, demand slid 8.1 per cent compared to the January-June period of 2022 (-8.7% for international operations). However, demand in June was only 2.4 per cent below June 2019 levels (pre-pandemic).



Willie Walsh
Director General
IATA

“We remain hopeful that the difficult trading conditions for air cargo will moderate as inflation eases in major economies.”

Cargo capacity, measured by available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), rose 9.7 per cent compared to June 2022, which was a slower rate compared to the double-digit growth recorded between March and May. This reflects strategic capacity adjustments airlines are making amid a weakened demand environment. Capacity

for the first half of 2023 was up 9.9 per cent compared to a year ago. Capacity is now 3.7 per cent above June 2019 (pre-pandemic) levels.

INFLUENCING DEMAND

In June, Purchasing Managers Index or PMI of manufacturing output and new export orders, which were 49.2 and 47.1,



Air cargo market in detail - June 2023

	World share ¹ (%)	June 2023 (% year-on-year)				June 2023 (% ch vs the same month in 2019)			
		CTK (%)	ACTK (%)	CLF (%-pt) ²	CLF (level) ³ (%)	CTK (%)	ACTK (%)	CLF (%-pt) ²	CLF (level) ³ (%)
TOTAL MARKET	100.0	-3.4	9.7	-5.8	43.2	-2.4	3.7	-2.7	43.2
Africa	2.0	-2.8	-3.7	0.4	44.6	5.3	-20.3	10.8	44.6
Asia Pacific	32.4	-3.6	24.4	-13.6	46.8	-6.1	5.5	-5.8	46.8
Europe	21.8	-2.8	4.4	-3.5	47.6	-12.9	-8.7	-2.3	47.6
Latin America	2.7	7.3	15.4	-2.5	33.7	3.8	12.7	-2.9	33.7
Middle East	13.0	0.5	11.1	-4.7	44.6	5.2	6.6	-0.6	44.6
North America	28.1	-6.5	0.7	-2.9	37.4	8.1	10.5	-0.8	37.4
International	86.9	-3.7	7.7	-5.8	48.6	-3.2	0.9	-2.1	48.6
Africa	2.0	-2.8	-3.6	0.4	45.4	6.5	-19.1	10.9	45.4
Asia Pacific	29.7	-7.2	12.8	-11.6	54.0	-6.8	1.3	-4.7	54.0
Europe	21.5	-3.0	4.5	-3.9	50.0	-13.2	-9.9	-1.9	50.0
Latin America	2.3	8.0	19.5	-4.0	37.9	6.7	23.5	-6.0	37.9
Middle East	13.0	0.5	11.2	-4.8	44.9	5.2	6.7	-0.6	44.9
North America	18.4	-3.3	2.1	-2.5	44.6	9.4	9.0	0.1	44.6

¹% of industry CTKs in 2022 ²Change in load factor ³Load factor level

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

respectively, were below the critical threshold represented by the 50-mark indicating a decline in international manufacturing production and exports.

International cross-border trade decreased by 2.4 per cent year-over-year in May, reflecting the cooling demand environment and challenging macroeconomic conditions.

The difference between the annual growth rates of air cargo and the global goods trade narrowed to -2.6 percentage points in May, representing the smallest gap since January 2022. However, the gap still suggests that air cargo continues to suffer more than container cargo from the slowdown in global trade.

“We remain hopeful that the difficult trading conditions for global air cargo will moderate as the inflation eases in the major economies. This, in turn, could encourage the central banks to loosen the money supply, which could stimulate greater economic activity around the globe,” said Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA.

Air cargo market in detail - June 2023 Year-to-date

	World share ¹ (%)	Year-to-date (% ch vs the same period in 2022)				Year-to-date (% ch vs the same period in 2019)			
		CTK (%)	ACTK (%)	CLF (%-pt) ²	CLF (level) ³ (%)	CTK (%)	ACTK (%)	CLF (%-pt) ²	CLF (level) ³ (%)
TOTAL MARKET	100.0	-8.1	9.9	-8.5	43.8	-5.9	0.9	-3.2	43.8
Africa	2.0	-4.4	1.6	-2.9	45.9	10.0	-11.4	8.9	45.9
Asia Pacific	32.4	-6.5	27.0	-16.2	45.1	-9.7	3.3	-6.5	45.1
Europe	21.8	-10.2	2.5	-7.4	52.3	-14.2	-14.8	0.4	52.3
Latin America	2.7	0.9	18.0	-5.9	34.7	-1.9	-2.2	0.1	34.7
Middle East	13.0	-5.6	11.2	-7.7	43.3	-3.8	3.8	-3.4	43.3
North America	28.1	-10.5	-0.7	-4.2	38.5	4.7	10.3	-2.1	38.5
International	86.9	-8.7	7.4	-8.8	50.1	-6.3	3.0	-1.7	50.1
Africa	2.0	-4.6	1.0	-2.7	47.0	11.1	-10.4	9.1	47.0
Asia Pacific	29.7	-8.8	14.2	-13.8	54.8	-8.1	-2.7	-3.2	54.8
Europe	21.5	-10.5	2.1	-7.6	54.3	-14.6	-15.6	0.6	54.3
Latin America	2.3	1.3	22.9	-8.5	39.8	-0.1	5.5	-2.2	39.8
Middle East	13.0	-5.5	11.3	-7.8	43.6	-3.7	4.3	-3.6	43.6
North America	18.4	-10.1	0.2	-5.3	46.3	4.4	6.3	-0.8	46.3

¹% of industry CTKs in 2022 ²Change in load factor ³Load factor level

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

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

The carriers in the Middle East region posted a 0.5 per cent increase in global air cargo volumes in June 2023 versus a year ago. This was a strong turnaround from the 2.9 per cent year-over-year decline registered in May. Cargo

capacity increased by 11.1 per cent for the month. Both Middle East-Asia and Middle East-Europe route regions saw annual growth. For the first half of the year, the global air cargo demand decreased by 5.6 per cent compared to an year ago, with an 11.2 per cent increase in cargo capacity.

FACTFILE

- Global cross-border trade fell by 2.4 per cent year-over-year in May, reflecting the cooling and challenging global air cargo demand.



Eco-Friendly Skies: Adopt Sustainable Supply Chains

As air cargo grapples with means to stay sustainable, **CARGO talk** speaks exclusively to **Glyn Hughes, Director General, TIACA**, to find out what makes the complex supply chain process effortless. The more sensitive the cargo, the more reliance on data sharing and quality-based aligned processes, he adds.

 Abigail Mathias

Can you highlight some of the aspects of supply chain when it comes to air cargo?

Supply chains by their very definition involve a series of partners involved in the custodial movement of cargo through a network of interconnected stakeholders. The level

of collaboration and integration is very much linked to the complexity of transport and the commodities being moved. The more sensitive the cargo, the more reliance on data

sharing and quality-based aligned processes.

This is where air cargo has excelled over recent years with greater investments in tech-



Glyn Hughes
Director General
 TIACA

“Supply chains operating during COVID reinforced the need for integrated data as a means for efficient and effective operations.”

nology, the various parties can now share much more shipment intelligence, which enhances compliance, improves efficiency, and allows reactive measures if shipments encounter issues on route.

Are there stumbling blocks or challenges in the air freight supply chain that can be overcome?

Many challenges exist today with the need to balance cargo capacity supply to match demand being one of the most important. To get this equation wrong could result in overcapacity in some markets thus driving yields down, while other markets may have inadequate capacity

to fully satisfy demand. Going forward, we can anticipate that multishoring will result in even more complex supply chains, so that this challenge becomes even greater.

Other challenges exist in terms of workforce, we need to ensure that we create the right environment that attracts and retains the next generation as well as ensuring we have adequate skilled and motivated staff to manage cargo facilities, which over recent times have become difficult in certain parts of the world.

We can also expect increased pressure when it comes to providing sustainable solutions. As an industry, we must continually reinforce the value

we bring to the global economy and the global community, enabling developed and developing nations to connect with global consumer markets enhancing national trade and therefore bringing increased prosperity to its citizens.

How have supply chains enhanced operations, especially in a post-COVID era?

Supply chains operating during the height of COVID curbs reinforced the need for integrated data as a means for efficient and effective operations. This resulted in significant industry investments into upgrading systems and implementing enhanced technology-based solutions.

FACTFILE

- Air cargo has excelled over recent years with greater investments in technology.
- Many challenges exist today with the need to balance cargo capacity supply to match demand.
- One can anticipate that multishoring will result in even more complex supply chains.
- Developing nations must link with consumer markets to enhance national trade and bring increased prosperity to the citizens.



Saudia Cargo signs pact to expand European services

Partnership with Jan de Rijk Co. will enable Saudia Cargo to widen its network in Europe and enhance its offerings to its customers. Saudia Cargo contributes to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 by developing a leading logistic hub and leveraging Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's strategic location.

 CT Bureau

Saudia Cargo has signed a strategic agreement with Jan de Rijk Co., a prominent European transportation and logistics company, to enhance its services and expand its reach in Europe. The sign-

ing ceremony took place at Saudia Cargo's headquarters in Jeddah, solidifying the collaboration between the two industry leaders.

Under this agreement, Saudia Cargo will leverage Jan de Rijk's extensive trucking net-

work, which comprises a fleet of specialist vehicles to bolster its operations and strengthen its presence in Europe. Jan de Rijk Co., is a top provider of European transportation, distribution services, and supply chain management solutions. The company's expertise and

in-depth knowledge of key industries make it an ideal partner for furthering Saudia Cargo's expansion plans.

Saudia Cargo's collaboration with Jan de Rijk Co., marks a significant milestone in its growth strategy, enabling



offerings and deliver seamless end-to-end logistics solutions to its customers by utilizing Jan de Rijk's extensive network and specialist vehicles.

The agreement between Saudia Cargo and Jan de Rijk Co., demonstrates both the commitment of both companies to providing exceptional logistics services and advancing the logistics industry. By merging their collective expertise, resources, and networks, Saudia Cargo and Jan de Rijk

ability, which is an important issue for the air cargo industry, and air cargo carriers that adopt sustainable practices can help to protect the environment, improve safety, and enhance their brand reputation. Together, we will enhance our offering for innovative and efficient solutions that cater to the evolving needs of the regional and global market."

Expressing his enthusiasm for the collaboration, Fred Westdijk, Chief Executive Of-

one of the world's most dynamic cargo carriers for more than seven decades, connecting 900 destinations in 175 countries through its alliance with Sky Team Cargo, the world's largest group of air cargo airlines. The company's fleet of modern Boeing freighters and modern facilities facilitate the transport of all types of cargo, from high-value shipments, dangerous goods, and perishables to pharmaceuticals and sensitive vaccines.

Jan de Rijk Logistics operates in five business units: international transport, Benelux distribution and last-mile deliveries, contract logistics, road freight forwarding, and intermodal transport. With a solid commitment to customer-centric solutions, Jan de Rijk Co., has gained a reputation for delivering reliable services tailored to the unique needs of its clients.

Saudia Cargo contributes to KSA's Vision 2030 by developing a logistic hub and leveraging the country's strategic location

Co., are poised to achieve several vital milestones due to the collaboration.

"We are delighted to partner with Jan de Rijk Co., to extend our footprint in Europe and provide enhanced logistics services to our valuable customers," said Teddy Zebitz, Chief Executive Officer, Saudia Cargo. "Jan de Rijk's track record in the European transportation industry aligns perfectly with our business growth objectives. Besides, we both share same mission towards sustain-

ficer, Jan de Rijk Co., said, "This agreement with Saudia Cargo presents a remarkable opportunity for both organizations. By combining our strengths, we will unlock new avenues for growth and better serve our customers. We look forward to a fruitful partnership and its mutual benefits."

Saudia Cargo contributes to the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia's Vision 2030 by developing a leading logistic hub and leveraging the country's strategic location. Saudia Cargo has been

FACTFILE

- The agreement between Saudia Cargo and Jan de Rijk Co., demonstrates the commitment of both companies to providing exceptional logistics services and advancing the logistics industry.

it to tap into new opportunities and further build up its European operations. The carrier aims to enhance its service



GCC: A hub of promising air cargo opportunities

Priority has been given to development of supply chain and logistics infra in the GCC region. The GCC region is ramping up logistics and air cargo hubs, driven by growth of cross-border e-commerce trade. The region's economic integration with global economy is expected to gain strength in the coming years.

The GCC countries have shown tremendous potential amidst global inflation, partly due to their economic diversification initiatives undertaken in recent years. National development plans of the GCC countries have given priority to increasing the contribution of non-oil sectors and expansion of trade through many trade cooperation agreements.

The GCC's most advanced economy, the UAE, prioritized CEPA and reached trade pacts with India and Israel. On the other hand, KSA, through its Global Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (GSCRI) launched in 2022, is positioning itself as a key link to global supply chains in various sectors such as aerospace, pharmaceuticals, automotives, maritime, medical devices, military supplies, and food processing. These developments are expected to open trade and investment opportunities in

sourcing materials for development of non-oil economic sectors and for exporting finished goods. Recognizing the need to improve connectivity with

Qatar accounted for about 90 per cent of the total cargo handled in the GCC region with the UAE being an established air cargo hub and Qatar ex-

and airport infrastructure development. Growth in cross-border e-commerce is expected to be sustained and is likely to open more opportunities in infrastructure development related to air cargo services. The UAE is increasing its warehouse capacity in the free zones to cater to the need of cross-border e-commerce.

“Growth in cross-border e-commerce may be sustained and open more opportunities in infrastructure development related to air cargo services.”

trading partners, high priority is given for the development of supply chain and logistics infrastructure in the region.

GCC EMERGING AS AIR CARGO HUB

The GCC nations are ramping up their logistics and air cargo hubs which are driven by their national aviation policies and the growth of cross-border e-commerce trade. The UAE and

panding its capacity rapidly. In 2022, Qatar Airways handled more than 1.7 million tonnes of air cargo and has connectivity in more than 170 destinations. KSA has launched the Saudi Aviation Strategy, which aims to increase air cargo handled from 0.8 million tonnes in 2022 to 4.5 million tonnes by 2030. Private sector participation is increasing in the form of investments in free zones

REGIONAL CARRIER EXPANSION PLANS

As the focus has shifted towards improving connectivity with other key destinations to meet the increasing demand for cargo services, regional air cargo service providers are likely to increase available capacity supported with modern technologies and increase connections with more destinations across the world. Saudi Arabia has launched Riyadh Air, owned by Public Prepared for Cargo Talk, Air Cargo in GCC, August 2023 Page | 2 Investment Fund to





meet the increasing demand for air transport, aiming to connect 100 destinations by 2030. Qatar Airways could expand its number of destinations to more than 255 in future. With growth prospects looking bright, opportunities are expected to open up in the areas of digitalization and sustainable aviation solutions.

DIGITAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Digitalization of air freight includes online services relating to digital booking, digital invoicing, real-time alerts and status updates of cargo, transparent and seamless services are expected to be in focus in addition to the integration of carriers with freight forwarders. Increasing ecommerce demand will facilitate the digitalization of customs clearance for handling high volumes of

small parcels across the major ports in the region. In efforts of digitalization, KSA's Riyadh Airports implemented a digital platform (OFOQ) for handling operations at its King Khalid International Airport. The UAE airlines have increased digitalization efforts with Etihad Cargo initiating AI-powered solutions for improved cargo capacity and better airfreight operations. Emirates Airlines has introduced a digital channel for cargo flight booking to accommodate ecommerce fulfilment with the launch of Emirates Delivers UK. As demand for air cargo services increase, it will open opportunities in air traffic control solutions, maintenance, repair, and operations services, cold chain infrastructure, cargo security, ground handling, and security equipment.

SUSTAINABILITY

With regional carriers improving capacity, sustainability will remain at the forefront of developments. Improving infrastructure operations, carbon capture/offsetting and adoption of new technologies are likely to be used as major sources for improving sustainability. The airlines such as the Emirates have announced their commitment to sustainable aviation with a total investment of around US\$200 million for research and development projects con-

cerning the decrease of fossil fuel effect in commercial aviation. The regional air cargo service providers are more likely to adopt sustainable aviation in a bid to meet their corporate responsibility goals.

CONCLUSION

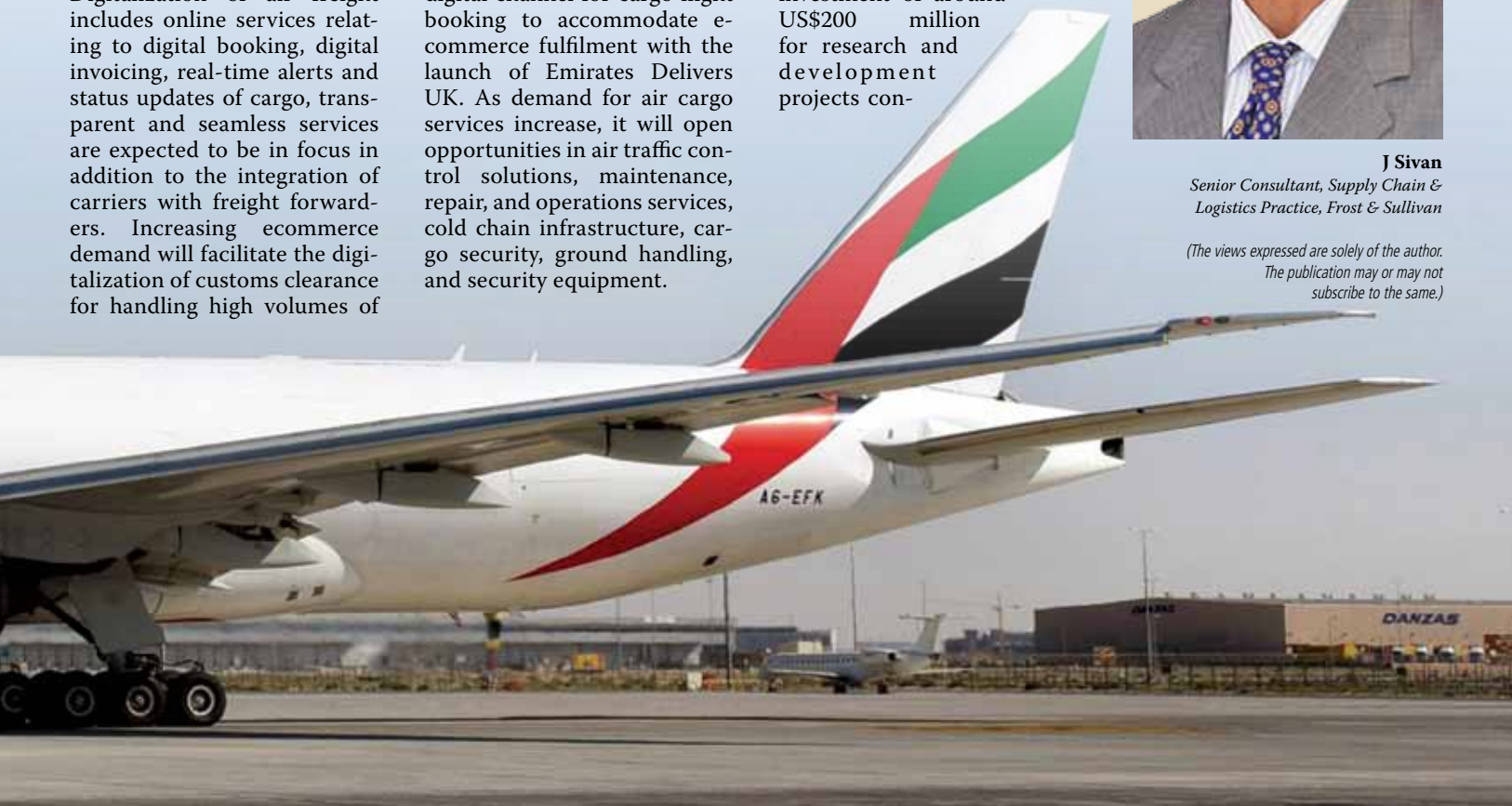
Post-pandemic economic environment is expected to change drastically considering changes in the geopolitical and trade environment, the GCC economic integration with the global economy is expected to gain strength in the coming years. Given that increasing focus on supply chain resiliency, more opportunities in the GCC air cargo logistics are expected to open in the areas of digitalization and sustainability solutions.



J Sivan

Senior Consultant, Supply Chain & Logistics Practice, Frost & Sullivan

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





AUH primed to emerge as cargo & logistics hub

During H1 2023, the Abu Dhabi International Airport handled as many as 259,461 tonnes of air freight. Air cargo is expected to gain momentum at the airport by forging new partnerships, says **Frank McCrorie, Chief Operations Officer**. This year, the AUH was recognized for providing world-class customer experience.

 CT Bureau

Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH) continues its upward trajectory as it announced the airport's traffic results for the first half of 2023, which show healthy figures and outstanding growth in cargo movement, flights, and passenger numbers.

Frank McCrorie, Chief Operations Officer, AUH said, "Our aim is to build on this momentum, reinforcing Abu Dhabi airport's position as a preferred airport in the region, with focus on delivering service excellence to our guests every day."

During H1 2023, the international airport handled 259,461 tonnes of air freight. Cargo is expected to gain momentum at Abu Dhabi International Airport, which is primed to emerge as a leading air cargo and logistics hub by forging new strategic partnerships. In April 2023, the airport signalled the global freight leader's launch of regional operations from the capital of the UAE.

This year, the airport was recognized for its enduring commitment to provide world-class customer experience, winning the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Service Quality (ASQ)

Air cargo is expected to gain momentum at Abu Dhabi International Airport soon

award for 'Best Airport at Arrivals Globally'.

The AUH is part of ADQ, one of the region's largest holding companies with a diverse portfolio of major enterprises spanning key sectors of Abu Dhabi's non-oil economy. It


was established in March 2006 to spearhead the development of the Emirate's aviation infrastructure. In September 2006, the airport assumed responsibility for the operation and management of Abu Dhabi and Al Ain International Airports.

In 2008, Abu Dhabi Airports added Al Bateen Executive Airport (an exclusive business aviation airport) as well as Sir Bani Yas and Delma Island Airports to its portfolio. These airports are geared to serve the various segments of air travellers, the aviation marketplace, and will help contribute to Abu Dhabi's development as a destination for both business and leisure tourism. 



QAC ferries 1.5 mn tonnes of air freight in 2022-23

The carrier accounted for 8.14% share in the global air cargo market last fiscal. QAC will continue to focus on its digital transformation strategy as a part of its Next Gen concept and will push for highest quality standards, embracing technology, sustainability, and innovation.

 CT Bureau

Qatar Airways Cargo reaches over 70 freighter destinations and more than 150 belly-hold passenger destinations worldwide. In its latest report the carrier stated that it has transported more than 1,541,041 tonnes of air freight, accounting for a 8.14 per cent share in the global market from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. It has also managed a broad range of demanding shipments in 2022/2023. With an overall 84,000 tonnes of pharmaceutical products transported, including 4,000 tonnes of vaccines and 1,200 tonnes of COVID vaccines, the carrier has maintained a strong engagement in helping curb the pandemic.

Providing safe transportation of 12,600 horses has confirmed its leading posi-

tion animal transportation. Qatar Airways Cargo has also achieved a considerable number of charter operations with 1,400 charter flights last year, which includes char-

tered its digital transformation. Another key event in 2022 was the launch of the Digital Lounge, Qatar Airways Cargo's web platform, designed to provide a more streamlined and

strict adherence to the highest standards and regulations, becoming the second airline in the world, and the first in the Middle East, to be CEI Lithium Batteries certified.

Overall 84,000 tonnes of pharma products ferried, including 4,000 tonnes of vaccines and 1,200 tonnes of COVID vaccines

ters for e-commerce, animals, music band tours and FIFA related activities.

Throughout 2022-2023, the cargo carrier continued its expansion around the globe by adding freighter frequencies to Athens, Cairo and Riyadh. Qatar Airways Cargo has brought enhancements to its services and sharply acceler-

ated its digital transformation. Another key event in 2022 was the launch of the Digital Lounge, Qatar Airways Cargo's web platform, designed to provide a more streamlined and connected booking experience for customers. As part of the carrier's omnichannel strategy, the platform offers users direct access to the main three bookings platforms of the industry.

Safety and security continue to be a priority for the cargo carrier and, in 2022, the carrier received IATA CEIV Lithium Batteries certification for its

The report added, looking towards this financial year, the cargo carrier will continue to focus on its digital transformation strategy as a part of its Next Generation concept and will continue to push for the highest quality industry standards, embracing technology, sustainability, and innovation to ensure it retains the speed, efficiency, and excellent customer service, for which it is world renowned.

FACTFILE

- QAC will continue to focus on its digital transformation strategy.



Enhancing USPS: **NACG** & **Etihad Cargo** form pact

Phase I of the ICAIR23 programme, powered by experienced personnel and subject matter experts, is slated to launch this month and continue through August 2027. The teams are looking forward to working together in a close alliance to service USPS customers globally, says **Tim Isik, VP, Commercial, Etihad Cargo**.

 CT Bureau

USA-based National Airlines, a division of National Air Cargo Group, Inc., has signed an interline agreement with Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, in order to successfully roll out the ICAIR23 programme for the United States Postal Service (USPS).

This agreement initiates a unique partnership, as it combines National's extensive experience in providing international freight transportation services with Etihad Cargo's global commercial network.

Under phase I of the ICAIR23 programme, National Airlines will dispatch USPS civilian and diplomatic mail using the scheduled services

of Etihad Cargo across several awarded lanes for the period 2023 -2027.

Tim Isik, Vice President, Commercial, Etihad Cargo, said, "Etihad Cargo is committed to making the transportation of mail across the carrier's network as seamless and efficient as possible. Etihad Cargo's partnership with National Air Cargo Group

will enable the two airlines to join forces to enhance international USPS mail deliveries, providing greater connectivity to destinations across Etihad Cargo's global network, and provide customers with an efficient service."

Christopher Alf, Chairman, National Air Cargo Group, Inc. said, "It is our honour to once again be part



of the ICAIR programme for USPS. This time it brings us much pleasure in collaborating with Etihad Cargo, a dynamic and rapidly growing

industry-specific transportation solutions are curated for governmental programmes, defense departments, e-commerce, automotive, oil-field

Phase I of ICAIR23 programme , powered by experienced personnel, is slated to launch this month and continue up to August 2027

global airline. We are looking forward to this association and hope to provide best-in-class mail delivery experiences to customers around the world through this programme.”

Since its inception in 1991, National Air Cargo Group (NACG), Inc., offers premium global end-to-end logistics solutions and freight forwarding services. Through global operational hubs, niche, and

projects, temperature-controlled shipments, live animal movements, and humanitarian aid, and relief support. National Airlines, the airline division of the company, is a USA FAA-certificated Part 121 air carrier, with a fleet of eight B747-400Fs, A330-200 and B757-200 provides on-demand commercial cargo and passenger charters to over 100 plus locations worldwide. Since its establishment in

2004, Etihad Cargo has grown rapidly to become one of the leading air cargo carriers in the world, offering customers a range of cargo products and services to five major continents. Its hub in Abu Dhabi is strategically located at the centre of the world’s busiest trade lanes, providing an integral link between Asia, Europe, North America, Australia, and Africa.

Phase I of the ICAIR23 programme, powered by experienced personnel and subject matter experts, is slated to launch this month and continue up to August 2027. The teams are looking forward to working together in a close alliance to service the USPS customers globally.

Experienced crew, technology-driven networking platforms, and strategically located hubs in the USA, Germany, Spain, Netherlands, Dubai,

Malaysia, Japan, Shanghai, and Hong Kong offer customers customized supply chain solutions 24x7.


With National Airlines’ track record in worldwide cargo charters and logistics flow over the past three decades and Etihad Cargo’s growing network, which connects major cities across the globe, customers can expect improved transit times, enhanced tracking capabilities, and a more seamless end-to-end experience to move their mail and packages.

FACTFILE

- This pact combines NACG experience in global freight transportation services with Etihad Cargo’s extensive commercial network.

FedEx launches **paperless solution** in UAE, Bahrain

FSML is a web-based mobile solution providing shippers with the convenience of preparing shipments without filling out a paper airway bill. This solution brings shipping into the digital age, where convenience is a priority, says **Taarek Hinedi, Vice President, Middle East and Africa, FedEx Express.**

 CT Bureau

GCC countries have an opportunity to capture a considerable portion of the global transport and logistics sector market, projected to be worth around US\$12.8 trillion by 2025, by adopting technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of

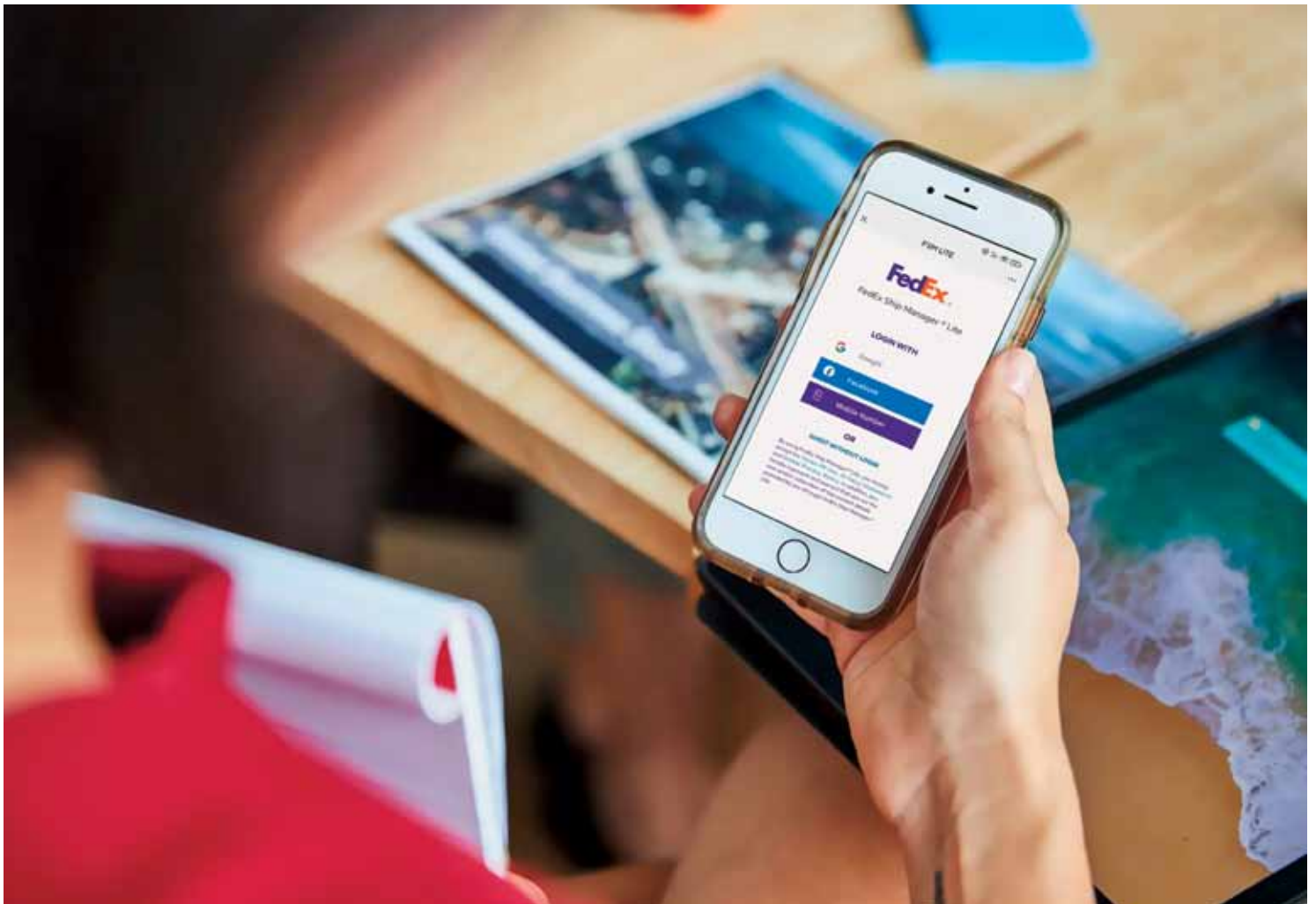
Things (IoT), and Blockchain in logistics-related operations, according to industry experts.

Taarek Hinedi, VP, Middle East and Africa, FedEx Express, said amid rapid changes brought about by technological advancements, the region's logistics industry is at the forefront of digital inno-

vation. Trends were emerging to help businesses adapt to the changing demands of digitally transformed sectors, he added.

"Connected logistics is anticipated to become the industry standard as it enables timely and cost-effective shipment management. For instance, GCC governments plan

to transform their economic foundation, advance sustainability, and leverage their strategic location as a trade hub. To achieve these objectives, it is must the logistics sector undergoes a concerted effort to modernize and digitize," Hinedi said. The UAE's logistics market is forecast to grow at a CAGR of 8.4 per cent to





reach US\$31.4 billion by 2026, Abu Dhabi's holding company ADQ stated.

The industry's rapid growth offers many opportunities and investment prospects to accelerate digital capabilities in the UAE, promoting economic competitiveness and sustainable growth in the region, ADQ stated in a white paper in 2022.

BOOKING ON MOBILE DEVICES

FedEx Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) and the world's largest express transportation company, has launched FedEx Ship Manager® Lite (FSML), a new mobile shipping solution, for shippers in the UAE, Bahrain, and Kuwait to prepare their packages with ease and flexibility. FedEx Ship Manager® Lite (FSML) is a web-based mobile shipping solution providing shippers, even those without a FedEx account who are dropping off packages at the FedEx World Service Centers (WSC), the convenience of preparing shipments without filling out a paper airway bill and printing ship-



Taarek Hinedi
VP, Middle East and Africa
FedEx Express

ping labels and commercial invoices. With the new solution, shippers can easily fill out their shipment information and create a shipment reference QR code using their smart devices and present it to the FedEx agent when dropping off their package.

Customers are demanding simpler ways to prepare their shipments. "FSML is another

way we are making shipping simpler with digital solutions to make our customers' lives easier. This solution brings shipping into the digital age, where convenience is a prior-

“Trends are emerging to help businesses adapt to the changing demands of digitally transformed sectors.”

ity. With FMSL, customers in the United Arab Emirates (UNA), Bahrain, and Kuwait can now ship packages without printing any documents, right from their mobile devices,” said Hinedi.

In addition, the solution allows shippers in Kuwait to fill

out the shipping information on their mobile devices and order a pick-up at their home address or place of work and simply present the QR code to the FedEx courier.

FedEx is enhancing its services by introducing innovative shipping solutions to meet the growing needs of customers. In the UAE, FedEx recently integrated WhatsApp, one of the country's popular instant messaging apps, into its e-commerce delivery solution FedEx Delivery Manager International. Using the service, recipients expecting their packages can receive delivery notifications, chat with FedEx directly, and manage their delivery time and location with the click of a button.

FedEx Express is the world's largest express transportation company, supplying fast and reliable delivery to more than 220 countries and territories. FedEx Express uses a global air-and-ground network to speed the delivery of time-sensitive shipments by a definite time and date. 📦

Forging an integrated ecosystem for cargo ops

When airlines broaden horizons by entering new markets or enhancing operational efficiency in existing ones, they rely on proficiency of a GSSA to promote their capacity. This approach saves time and resources and exemplifies the ECS Group's presence in 48 countries, says **Adrien Thominet, Executive Chairman**.

 Abigail Mathias

What are the main building blocks of the supply chain when it comes to air cargo?

The air cargo supply chain's main building blocks are undergoing a transformative shift, largely driven by digitalisation. While acknowledging that digital tools are reshaping the industry, the transition to a fully completed digital

ecosystem remains a work in progress. There seems to be a contradiction between market levels as they struggle to fully cover freighter operations. This indicates that there is room for more improvement and collaboration within the industry to create a seamless and efficient supply chain. At ECS Group, we emphasize the importance of developing a comprehensive integrated digital ecosystem. We are committed to addressing market-level gaps by collaborating with industry

stakeholders in a bid to create a cohesive and efficient supply chain network.

How has supply chain enhanced operations in a post COVID era?

The post-COVID era brought about substantial changes, and the air cargo supply chain is no exception. Thanks to digital advancements, operations have experienced improvements. Digital tools have played a crucial role in

streamlining processes, reducing paperwork, and enhancing communication among stakeholders. ECS Group, too, has embraced digital solutions, enabling smoother operations and better customer experiences. We have orchestrated improvements through integration of cutting-edge digital solutions. By harnessing the power of digitalisation, ECS Group has streamlined operations, increased transparency, and optimized communication channels, enabling





airlines to navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic with confidence.

What are the stumbling blocks in the air cargo supply chain that can be overcome?

Despite the progress made, certain challenges persist. One critical issue is the need for more rationality in pricing compared to the costs of operations. Striking a balance between competitiveness and sustainable profitability is paramount for the industry's growth. Digitalisation is essential to optimize various aspects of the supply chain, making processes more efficient and data driven. Sustainability is another key concern, and ECS Group recognizes the importance of onboarding sustainable practices



Adrien Thominet
Executive Chairman
ECS Group

into their operations. We integrate eco-friendly practices into their operations, exemplifying their dedication to a greener future.

What is unique to the supply chain model adopted by your organization?

ECS Group stands out with its innovative approach and adaptability to the evolving industry landscape. We have introduced new specialized services, tailored to address the specific needs of their airline clients. In our à la carte menu, we offer digital solutions, sustainability initiatives, and revenue optimization strategies. By integrating these essential elements into our business model at ECS Group, we ensure that our airline partners can meet the changing demands of the market and improve overall operational efficiency.

Our commitment to elevating the air cargo supply chain industry positions us as true

experts and trailblazers. With a focus on embracing digitalisation, sustainability, and customer-centric solutions, ECS Group leads by example. As we

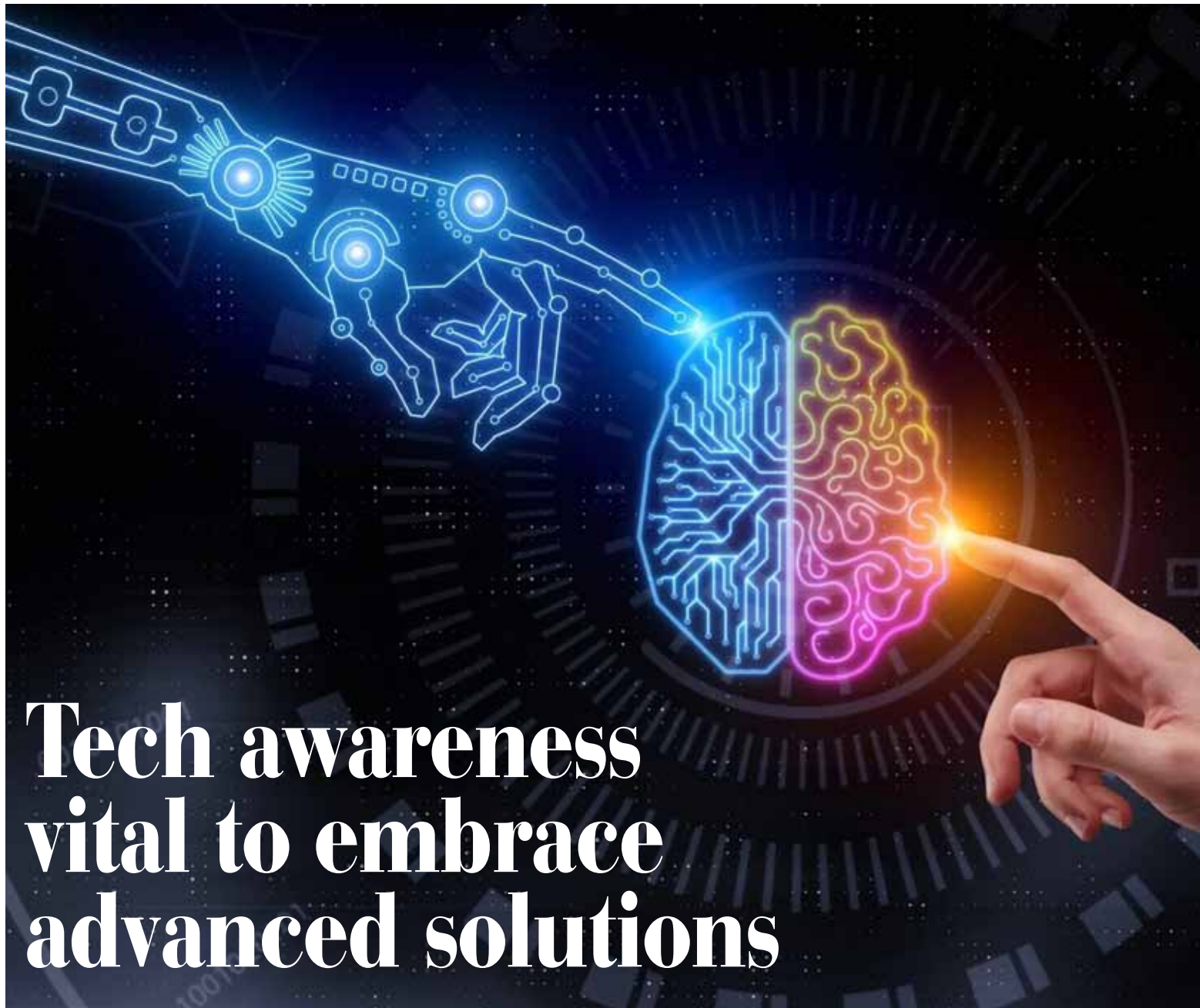
“Striking a balance between sustainable profitability is paramount for the industry’s growth.”

continue to shape the future of air cargo logistics, airlines can confidently rely on our expertise to navigate complexities, adapt to evolving demands, and achieve unparalleled success in the world of air cargo.



FACTFILE

- Post-COVID era brought about changes, and the air cargo supply chain is no exception.



Tech awareness vital to embrace advanced solutions

Matt Petot, CEO, CargoAi and Magali Beauregard Ta, CCO, CargoAi share they have plans in the third quarter of 2023 to enhance existing solutions such as CargoWALLET and CargoMART, as well as move to the ISO 14083 certification for Cargo2ZERO's CO2 calculation.

 Ritika Arora Bhola

Take us through your innovative products such as CargoMART, CargoWALLET for the air cargo market?

Our products form an ecosystem worldwide in which freight forwarders, airlines, GSAs, TMS and network associations can seamlessly work

together—CargoMART being one of them. Our three pillars, e-booking, sustainability, and payments are the foundation of our product ecosystem. CargoMART conducts all air freight procurement-related actions within one hub.

KEY FEATURES

- Accelerate searches with the autofill feature for DIMS information

- Reduce multiple email exchanges by using the simple Quote Request button when no rate is displayed for a flight

- A separate tab keeps record on the status of all quote requests, an attractive alternative to the traditional email inbox filing system (The same goes for bookings made)

- Use auto-confirmation

without needing to call or email the airline. The request is sent to them instantly. Once the booking is made, we of course offer the same visibility to keep track of all bookings and its status up to delivery

- We also offer the Modify Booking feature allowing forwarders to make updates, even with last minute changes, before delivery to the airline



WALLET with either full sum upon confirmation (Prepaid) or with credit of up to 60 days (PayLater).

Cargo2ZERO, embedded in the CargoMART booking flow, offers two sets of solutions—the suite of sustainability data and purchase of SAF. Firstly, we offer CO₂ calculations, which are embedded in all workflows on all our solutions. On a shipment level, we are providing the data to inform clients about their carbon footprint and about how optimized their procurement decision was, using our CO₂ Efficiency Score.

The efficiency score informs how much better a shipping decision could have been, in terms of least carbon emissions, by comparing it to the market data available for that route. In late 2022, we announced a partnership with Neste, the leading producer worldwide of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). This enables forwarders access to purchase SAF at the transactional level for one booking or for bulk purchase, for any volume share, ranging from 1 per cent of SAF to 100 per cent SAF.

We also have CargoCONNECT comprising four API modules such as Schedules, Rates and Book, Tracking, and CO₂ API, which leverage the same high-quality data available on CargoAi's back-end derived from over 500 airlines and GSAs. The integration of one or all CargoCONNECT modules provides an efficient method to retrieve and compare schedules, availability and pricing, book, and track shipments, as well as calculate CO₂ emissions. This was created for TMS providers, although air freight players of all sizes from startups to enterprises (such as marketplace affiliates) can benefit from using the different elements of CargoCONNECT. We offer the quick plug and play routes or the option to customize the integration (also applicable to like CargoAi's other solutions). CargoGATE is our white-labelled solution for either for-

warder associations (based on CargoMART), or airlines and GSAs to bypass the financial and technical investment to build and maintain an online distribution channel. By using CargoGATE, airlines and GSAs can achieve a leap in user experience to drive efficiencies, and loyalty in cus-

rate management functionalities for CargoMART. In general, the enhancements will boost efficiency by adding to the functionalities features for CargoMART, where thousands of forwarders carry out multiple daily activities for airfreight booking. Having a centralized rate management



Matt Petot
CEO
CargoAi



Magali Beauregard Ta
CCO
CargoAi

“In the second half of this year, we plan to announce significant extension of the CargoWALLET.”

tomer journey—stepping away from the singular transactional nature of calls and emails.

How are the new products going to boost operational efficiency and reduce cost?

In the second half of this year, we plan to announce vital enhancements to the existing solutions such as an extension of the CargoWALLET for airlines, rate management for CargoMART as well as move to the ISO 14083 certification for Cargo2ZERO's CO₂ calculation as well as further

“CargoAi has implemented various best techniques, which has what set us apart from other competitors.”

system within CargoMART ensures that multiple users or offices can access the same database of information without needing to send emails about different types of rates between offices, or to their shippers.

The CargoWALLET App extension will allow forwarders to pay carriers directly, this way the need for manual reconciliation by forwarder and airline accounts teams is reduced and improves workforce upskilling, allowing them to start moving away from low-value tasks.

• email push notifications are delivered automatically for every status of the shipment—meaning that users do not have to actively follow a shipment to its destination, freeing up mental space for executing other bookings

CargoMART Payments, powered by CargoWALLET, allow forwarders to import freight from any location. After searching for routes on CargoMART, what is exceptional is that forwarders can confirm these transactions without an IATA Cass Number, purchased via the secure encrypted online

CargoCONNECT and CargoGATE benefit from all these enhancements due to the API architecture, which makes feature deployment seamless from one product to the next.

Could you elaborate on global best techniques you are planning to infuse into the firm's operations for efficiency for enhancing business and network?

From its debut, CargoAi has implemented various global best techniques and strategies; this is what sets us apart from other competitors. Using our strong anchor as air freight professionals, we evaluate and customize how we want to import and implement the best technology practices from outside the industry to ensure a robust and scalable framework for all our products and company operations.

By ingraining the agile methodology in our daily operations, CargoAi has achieved flexibility, speed, and adaptability in deploying solutions quickly for air freight. Many of our custom integration clients have commended our reactivity, which is achieved through iterative development,

and continuous improvement. We are proud we can respond quickly to market demands and deliver high-quality and award-winning products.

Secure Encryption Technologies and ISO Compliance: CargoAi was recently certified as ISO 27001 compliant in a record time of two months, which attests to the implementation and reinforcement of secure encryption technologies and processes that were in place from the outset. In compliance with relevant ISO standards, such as ISO 27001 for information security management, this certification underscores the care from CargoAi ensures in ensuring the protection of sensitive data from its users and through operational safeguards its operations.

Robust encryption techniques, secure key management, and communication protocols have been employed to maintain data privacy, integrity, and confidentiality. These security measures bolster customer trust, compliance with data protection regulations, and mitigate the risks of unauthorized access or data breaches.

Overall, these practices



have not only improved agility, scalability, and security, but also elevated the overall quality standards, driving network enhancement and fostering sustainable growth. We continue to keep an eye on global best practices such as in financial products/services, carbon reduction and other secure technologies to ensure the best experience for our team and clients.

Could you explain what makes your company better than its competitors?

Digitalisation and innovation are here to stay in air cargo,

our vision is to revolutionize the industry by bringing the best technologies to air freight and create a connected ecosystem within all air freight players, to drive every stage of the air freight procurement process with greater efficien-

Digitalisation and innovation are here to stay in air cargo, our vision is to revolutionize the industry

cy and visibility. With cargo professionals at the helm of the company, we have a keen sense of air cargo knowledge and background to ensure that we produce solutions designed to solve the industry's pain points.

From planning, booking, and purchasing shipments right through to monitoring cargo deliveries, our products first and foremost are underpinned by ensuring 'plug and play' simplicity for all our users. Secondly, being cloud-native and having an API-first architecture, we ensure everything we build is robust, scalable and contributes to a connected data ecosystem for all stakeholders in the industry. 🚀



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Etihad Cargo freighter lands in Ezhou cargo hub

Etihad Cargo's inaugural freighter flight to Ezhou Huahu Airport in Hubei province of China arrived on 18 August 2023, marking the commencement of freighter service between Abu Dhabi and Ezhou. The airport is expected to open 10 international cargo routes and 50 domestic routes by 2025.

 CT Bureau

The new gateway to China will provide customers and partners of Etihad Cargo with greater connectivity to the Chinese market and support the vision of Abu Dhabi of becoming an international logistics and express hub.

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has operated the carrier's inaugural flight to Ezhou Huahu Airport. Etihad Cargo's Boeing 777-200 freighter landed in Ezhou airport on 18 August, marking the carrier as the first Etihad Cargo airline to operate cargo flights to Ezhou.

Located in the Hubei province of China, Ezhou Huahu Airport was developed as Asia's first and the world's fourth professional cargo airport. Equipped with a 23,000 square metre cargo terminal and a 700,000 square metre freight transit centre, the airport serves as a gateway for air trade between China and the

rest of the world. The airport is expected to open 10 international cargo routes and 50 domestic routes by 2025, with an annual cargo and mail throughput of 2.45 million tonnes.

Etihad Cargo's expansion to Ezhou Huahu Airport follows the carrier's announcement that it has expanded its





reciprocal block space agreement with the SF Airlines to increase cargo capacity between China and the rest of the world via Etihad Cargo's hub in Abu Dhabi.

This partnership has given Etihad Cargo's partners and customers accessibility to 25 domestic Chinese destinations, including Shenzhen, Hangzhou, Chengdu, and Nanjing. SF Airlines benefits from Etihad Cargo's global network for its express product.

Leonard Rodrigues, Head of Revenue Management, Fleet and Network, Etihad Cargo, said, "Offering connectivity to China's five national-level city clusters via railway, waterway, expressway and air transportation infrastructure, Ezhou Huahu Airport is the region's first dedicated, professional cargo airport. The commencement of a weekly freighter service between Abu Dhabi and Ezhou opens new interline opportunities with Etihad Cargo's partner SF Airlines and will enable the carrier to expand its reach into the Chinese market,



Leonard Rodrigues
Head of Revenue Management
Fleet and Network, Etihad Cargo

which is a key region to the airline. The modern facilities and smart technology available in the airport represent the future of air cargo, and Etihad Cargo is committed to achieving mutual growth and strengthening ties between the UAE and China."

"Congratulations to the SF Airlines partner Etihad Cargo on its inaugural flight to the Ezhou Huahu Airport. By be-

ing centrally located in China, the cargo airport has the advantage of connecting to most of the tier I cities in China within a two-hour flight. The Ezhou Huahu Airport provides comprehensive services, including but not limited to a fast-handling sorting centre, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), and an international cargo terminal. By growing with the Ezhou Huahu Airport, we believe it will bring more opportunities and value to the cooperation between SF Airlines and Etihad Cargo," said Robert Zhang, Commercial Director, SF Airlines.

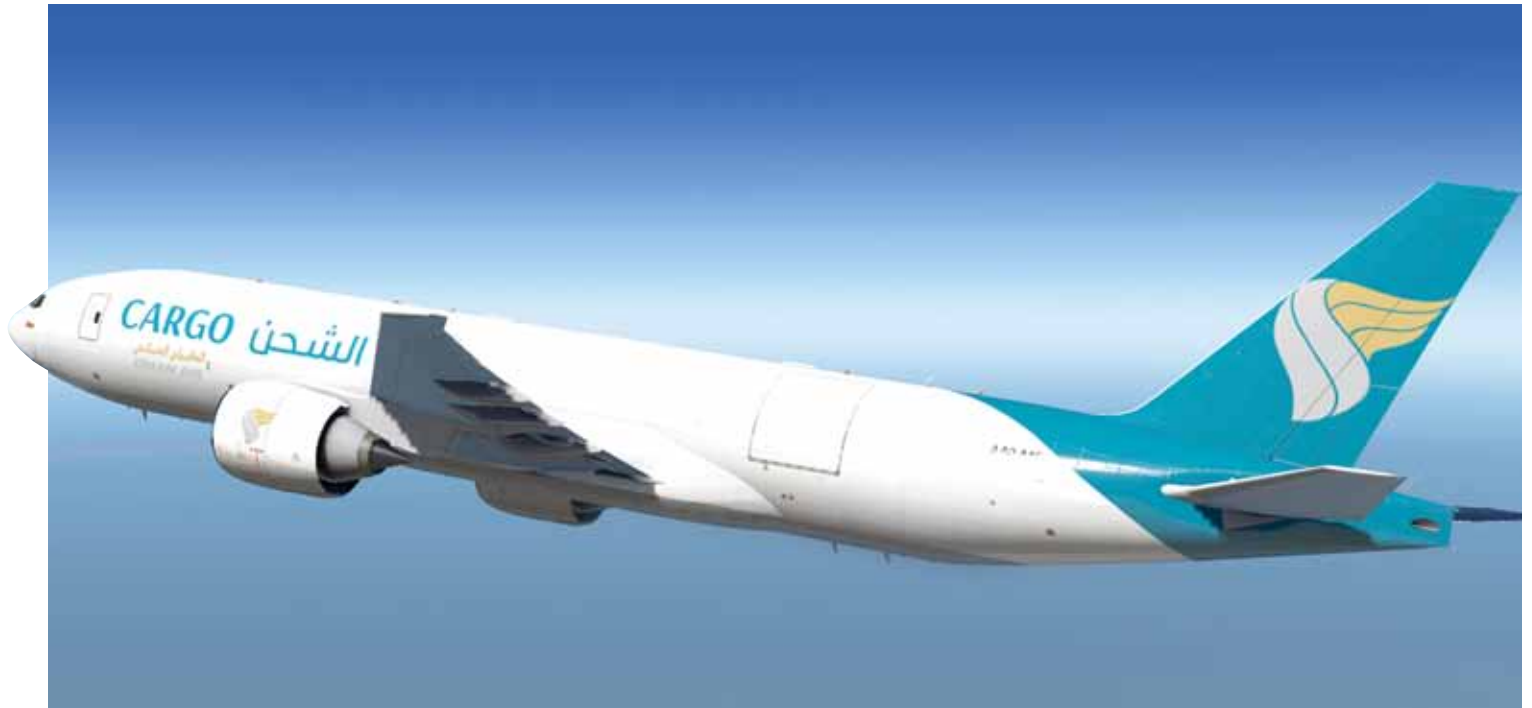
Luo Guowei, Party Secretary and Chairman, Hubei International Logistics Airport Co. Ltd. said, "We are delighted to witness the inaugural launch of Etihad Cargo's freighter flight to Ezhou Huahu Airport, marking the commencement of freighter services between Abu Dhabi and Ezhou. As a major national project and a gateway for air trade between China and the rest of world, Ezhou Huahu Airport stands as the first professional cargo

hub airport in the Asian continent and the fourth of its kind in the world."

The addition of Ezhou to Etihad Cargo's network is the latest step in the carrier's ongoing commitment to the Chinese market. The new freighter ser-

“Etihad Cargo expansion to Ezhou follows its announcement that it has expanded its RBS pact with the SF Airlines.”

vice between Abu Dhabi and Ezhou will enable Etihad Cargo to meet increased demand for cargo capacity out of China and cement the carrier's position as the air cargo partner of choice in this key region. 🇦🇪



Despite dip, **Oman Air** **Cargo** volumes rise by 42%

Between January and June, total cargo revenue surpassed OMR 22.3 million, reflecting the resilience of operations amidst challenging market conditions. The cargo carrier's strategy for this year includes the launch of its first ever freighter to meet growing demand for seamless movement of cargo.

 CT Bureau

Oman Air Cargo has released its results for the first half of 2023, recording a 42 per cent increase in cargo volumes compared to the same period in 2022, primarily driven by capacity expansion.

Between January and June, total cargo revenue surpassed OMR 22.3 million, reflecting the resilience of operations amidst challenging market conditions.

Despite a dip in yield compared to the previous year, the results indicate healthy growth and the carrier's focus on technology, efficiency and

customer service are ensuring it retains its strong position in the market.

SUSTAINED GROWTH

Oman Air Cargo has maintained an upward trajectory since its launch in 2009. Having obtained the IATA CEIV Pharma and CEIV Fresh certifications in 2021, it continues to gain significant momentum through time- and temperature-controlled shipments. While in 2022 it added several new destinations and introduced its innovative 'Cargo-in-Cabin' service to Europe, the Far East, and Indian Subcontinent, its 2023 strategy includes the launch of its first ever freighter to meet growing


demand. Furthermore, its ongoing digitalisation drive continues to make the customer experience simpler and more

efficient, with a new Revenue Management System and online booking channels currently in the works.

Leveraging Muscat's strategic location connecting East and West, the carrier's facilities ensure seamless cargo movement through Muscat

efficient, with a new Revenue Management System and online booking channels currently in the works.

Leveraging Muscat's strategic location connecting East and

ternational Airport. As one of the key hubs for the GCC region, it remains at the forefront of the rapidly evolving air cargo sector, while solidifying Oman's standing as a key regional logistics hub. 

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Easing procedures for relief shipments

Dubai Customs is committed to providing automated, smooth, and expedited clearance process for IHC's relief shipments to ensure Dubai's position as a global humanitarian aid hub, says Humaid Al-Rasheed, Director, Land Customs Centres Department.

CT Bureau

Dubai Customs continues to facilitate relief shipments dispatched from the International Humanitarian City, in support

Customs is committed to providing smooth clearance process for IHC's relief shipments

of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) leading role in providing humanitarian aid to underprivileged countries.

Their simplified clearance procedures have had a significant impact on the rapid deliveries



of humanitarian aid and relief goods from Dubai to the most affected areas of the world. The Dubai Logistics City Customs Inspection Centre held a meeting with the International

Humanitarian City to discuss further easing of procedures related to the movement of relief shipments to all over the globe. The meeting was attended by Sami Essa, Sen-

جمارك دبي
DUBAI CUSTOMS



ior Manager, Dubai Logistics City Inspection Centre; Abdul Basit Al Marzouqi, Manager, Dubai South Operations; Boran Najm, Head, Logistics Operations; and Jihad Abdel Moula, logistics and supply chains expert.

"Dubai Customs is strongly committed to providing automated, smooth and expedited clearance process for IHC's relief shipments to ensure Dubai's position as a global humanitarian aid hub and help IHC members deliver an effective emergency response action to a growing number of crises around the world," commented Humaid Al-Rasheed, Director of Land Customs Centres Department. 🇦🇪





talabat partners with EHRDC for last-mile delivery

Emirati Human Resources Development Council (EHRDC) and talabat have signed a deal to attract Emirati talent within the private sector. The MoU, spanning for five years, was signed by Abdulaziz Harib Alfalahi, Emiratisation Recruitment Superintendent, EHRDC, and Hanna Nordell, Chief People Officer at talabat.

Kingdom of Bahrain plans to become a global logistics centre



Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 was created to enhance private sector growth and promote government investment in infra, affordable housing, and digital transformation. The Kingdom of Bahrain's transport infrastructure is another focal point, with details provided of the major projects that will strengthen connectivity.

DHL Group to acquire Turkish parcel delivery provider MNG Kargo

DHL Group has signed a pact to acquire (100 per cent), Turkish parcel delivery company, MNG Kargo Yurtiçi ve Yurtdışı Taşımacılık A.Ş. (MNG Kargo) and its subsidiaries. MNG Kargo is one of the leading parcel delivery companies in Turkey, where the parcel and ecommerce market is growing rapidly. It is believed to deliver up to 600,000 addresses per day. In addition to securing a leading position in this strongly developing domestic parcel market, this acquisition will create additional synergies for DHL Group, and its customers will benefit from unique logistics offerings within Turkey as well as cross border through the collaboration of the various DHL divisions already present in Turkey.



DP World becomes worldwide partner of Ryder Cup



DP World, an Emirati multinational logistics company based in Dubai, will be bringing its industry leading capabilities to help deliver the Ryder Cup. With an interconnected network spanning 75 countries across six continents and day to day operations accounting for 10 per cent of global trade, DP World's logistical capabilities

make it apt to help deliver the Ryder Cup and enhance the efficiency and success of golf as a global sport. Speaking about the new partnership, Daniel van Otterdijk, Chief Communications Officer at DP World, said, "At DP World, we are committed to supporting the growth of sports globally in reaching new audiences and markets through our smart logistic solutions."

Alshaya Group partners with Admiral Mobility in UAE



Alshaya Group recently partnered with trucking partner Admiral Mobility to offer a safe, reliable, and greener last-mile delivery option of 100 per cent electric e-city trucks. The group stated it recognizes the importance of adoption of sustainable transportation solutions and supports initiatives that contribute to reducing the carbon footprint.



WFS is cargo handling partner of RwandAir

RwandAir Ltd has chosen WFS as its cargo handling partner for its new direct flights between Paris and Kigali. With three weekly Airbus A330 flights, it marks RwandAir's first-ever direct service to France. WFS will provide handling services, supporting the airline's freight forwarding customers and its GSA partner in France.

Decline in international trade, challenge for air cargo: IATA

According to a report published by IATA, the global demand for air cargo in May 2023, measured in CTks, saw a 5.2 per cent drop compared to the same month in 2022. Meanwhile, global operations experienced an even sharper decline of 6 per cent. Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA is optimistic that the market will experience some improvements during the second half of the year. "As inflation moderates in many markets, it is widely expected that central bank rate hikes will taper. This should help stimulate economic activity with a positive impact on demand for air cargo," he said. Despite the decline in demand, capacity measured in available cargo tonne-kilometres has seen a significant upsurge. Currently, global capacity stands at 5.9 per cent above May 2019 levels, before the onset of the global pandemic.



Second Boeing 777-200 freighter delivered to Atlas Air



Atlas Air has taken delivery of the second of four Boeing 777-200 freighters that it will operate on behalf of MSC Air Cargo. The new freighters are being operated by Atlas Air following a long-term pact announced in September last. MSC Air Cargo is offering around the world service to airports, including Indianapolis, Liege, Seoul, and Xiamen, said Michael Steen, Chief Executive, Atlas Air Worldwide said.

Amerijet International announces completion of joint PoC project



Amerijet International has announced the completion of a joint Proof of Concept (PoC). The project concentrated on leveraging aircraft loading optimization to enhance cargo load factor and revenue per flight. It operates a fleet of Boeing 757 and 767 freighters, providing cargo services from its hub in Miami, USA, to 48 destinations.

ANA launches PRIO FRESH solution for perishable air freight



ANA Cargo has begun offering its new PRIO FRESH service for global perishable air freight on flights from Haneda, Narita, Kansai, Fukuoka, Nagoya and Chitose airports. PRIO FRESH is the service for global cargo. Customers can opt for thermal blankets to protect cargo, excluding shipments travelling on Boeing 737 and Airbus A320 flights.

Lufthansa Cargo tops in global air cargo market in Q2



Lufthansa Cargo “outperformed the global air cargo market” in the second quarter of this year, as average yields remained 40 per cent above 2019 levels despite lower air cargo demand. The Lufthansa Group stated, “This corresponds to an operating margin of 11.6 per cent and is a new record for a second quarter result.”

Cargo revenue for LATAM falls, as demand for southbound reduces



Cargo revenues of LATAM Airlines Group fell in the quarter ending June 30 and against a backdrop of softening demand. Cargo revenues fell by 23.2 per cent YOY in the Q2 to reach US\$355 million. This was as capacity grew, and demand to South America declined. The carrier noted cargo revenues outperformed the equivalent pre-COVID figure by 32 per cent.

Hong Kong Air Cargo looks ahead to expand operations

Hong Kong Air Cargo has opened a new Greater Bay Area Office in Shenzhen to expand its business in the region. The ‘Dongguan-Hong Kong International Aviation Hub’ reduces transportation time and logistics costs. ZHANG Youqiang, Chairman and President, HKC, said, “The opening of our GBA office in Shenzhen is a strategic move.”



Polar Air Cargo renews contract with Network Cargo in Canada

Polar Air Cargo and Network Cargo announced they have extended their GSA contract by three more years from 1 July. Network Cargo, the GSSA branch of the Network Aviation Group in North America, have been reappointed by Polar Air Cargo as their GSA across all of Canada, Paul Umpleby, VP, Commercial for the Americas, Network, said.



cargo-partner offers air cargo solutions

cargo-partner is widening its reach and is now offering a sizeable number of weekly air freight solutions from airports in Austria, Germany, UK, Sweden and Netherlands to India, China, Singapore and Thailand. Jo Feiks, Corporate Director, Product Management, Air Cargo, said, “We have launched new air cargo connections between Western Europe and Asia to give our customers more flexibility.”

Movements



ETIHAD CARGO UAE

★ **Peter Kerins** has been appointed Head of Global Accounts and Special Products at Etihad Cargo. He will lead Etihad Cargo's relationships with key customer accounts and work with key global customers to understand their business goals. He will also oversee the carrier's customer-centric approach to account management, providing personalised and proactive customer service and solutions. Kerins will lead Etihad Cargo's team of product managers responsible for developing the carrier's suite of eight special products. He joins Etihad Cargo with a wealth of expertise in maintaining partnerships.



AL-FUTTAIM AUTOMOTIVE UAE

★ **Katib Belkhodja** has been appointed as the Director of Customer Centricity of Al-Futtaim Automotive. In his new capacity, he will report directly to the President of Al-Futtaim Automotive and will spearhead the development of the group's customer-focused business strategies. With more than 15 years of experience across diverse ecosystems within the automotive industry, Katib Belkhodja has worked with OEMs, major dealerships, automotive digital platforms. He also possesses a deep understanding of industry dynamics and evolving customer engagement, according to a press statement.



SWISSLOG MIDDLE EAST UAE

★ **Rami Younes** has joined as the new GM and Head of Sales for Swisslog Middle East. He will be responsible for leading Swisslog's business in the Middle East, with a primary focus on warehouse logistics. Based in the UAE, Younes brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise in the field of automation. Prior to joining Swisslog Middle East, Younes worked as the COO at ALS Logistic Solutions and led a 4PL Logistics start-up, Integrated Logistics Services in Saudi Arabia. His leadership skills in supply chain, logistics, and high-tech industrial products have consistently driven success for international teams.



RAFT UK

★ **Kurt Corman** has been appointed as the Regional Vice President of sales of Raft. He will support the company's accelerating global growth. He has previously held sales and leadership roles with Fourkites, Chain.io and BDP International, says, "Combining new technology, data and ML is changing the freight forwarding industry, improving forwarders' workflows across finance, customs, visibility, and emissions. In my new role, I look forward to using my experience within the industry to help forwarders and customs agents across the Americas drive to deliver value to customers."



RAFT Europe

★ **Claudio Fiaoni** has joined as the Regional VP of Sales, EMEA Intelligent logistics platform of Raft. He started with Raft as global sales director in 2022 and has gained software and commercial experience by working in Oracle, 3Gtms and E2open. The Raft platform is designed to offer user experience and leverage the tech our industry has to offer. My experience within Raft makes me support our clients and expand into Europe, the ME, and Africa. He says, "Logistics must accept digitalisation as the new norm."



DRONAMICS Australia

★ **Gavin Gomes** has been appointed as the GM, Australia, Dronamics. The appointment sees him become a member of the senior management team. His career includes positions at startups, private firms, listed entities, and Canon, Australia Post, Telstra, and IBM. A certified pilot, he currently serves as a non-executive director of Royal Victorian Aero Club and CM Pacific. "I look forward to leading to drive Dronamics growth of the Australian logistics and aviation industry," he said. Dronamics is working with Australian-based Quickstep Holdings to scale up its fleet amid rising demand."

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