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April 2024

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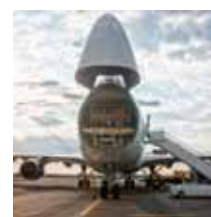
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Middle East grows as air cargo powerhouse





Movement of people and goods is fundamental to economic and social activities. In fact, effective transport and logistics are essential to support economic development and engagement in the global economy. Through its constant evolution, air cargo has become a frontrunner in several global scales.



 Abigail Mathias

Logistic operations require careful planning. Each movement starts somewhere, it may have several stops en route and ends with a final destination. When

A significant aspect of all air cargo transactions is its geographical location

transport systems are running efficiently, the stakeholders take them for granted. However, we are increasingly dependent on globalised transport systems to support all aspects of our lives, and it is only when things go wrong that we notice them. A significant aspect of all cargo transactions is geographical

location. Ensuring that transport and logistics systems run efficiently and effectively is of crucial importance to the economy. The process requires considerable skill and knowledge, apart from thinking about the size, shape, weight and other physical characteristics of each product to be shipped, to mapping routes and eliminating unnecessary mileage covered by delivery vehicles.

Much of the thinking is geographical in nature; focusing on the spatial analysis and the need to better understand specialised concepts such as systems and flows, globalisation, interdependence and sustainability.

With its strategic location, the Middle Eastern region is rightfully assumed to be an integral hub for air cargo and logistics sector. Many stalwarts of the sector spoke to **CARGO talk** to discuss how this transformation has come about.

Transport and logistics systems running efficiently is important to the economy

“ The Middle East, primarily through its key logistics hubs like Dubai, not only benefits from a strategic geographic position but also boasts modern infra such as speedy processing of goods, crucial for time-sensitive shipments and business-friendly policies that enhance its trading and logistics capabilities. The region is home to some of the advanced airports and seaports, equipped with cutting-edge technologies for cargo handling and logistics operations. The UAE’s commitment to fostering a conducive business environment is evident through its many free zones. By leveraging advantages such as strategic loca-



Frederico Fernandes
Associate Director
WIZE Consultants

tion, modern infra, favourable policies, and efficient processes—ME operators can maximize their logistic efforts and attract global trade through their networks. These elements collectively enhance the region’s appeal, especially with the changes in the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia, where a massive logistics hub will be created, ensuring it remains at the forefront of global trade and supply chain operations. This efficiency in administrative processes, with robust legal frameworks and governmental support for logistics and aviation sectors cements the Middle East’s status as a international trading and logistics hub.”

Middle East serves as nexus between West & East markets

“ Etihad Cargo’s busiest cargo routes serviced by our freighter are China and Vietnam, especially for e-commerce shipments. The Middle East serves as an ideal nexus between Eastern and Western markets due to its strategic position and ongoing investments in infrastructure, which simplify business operations within the region. Etihad Cargo’s peak season is in Q4 and the beginning of Q1 before the Chinese New Year. Etihad Cargo experienced a strong peak season in 2023, fueled by e-commerce and electronics shipments from Asia. India is our top market for pax services, with our partners and customers gaining from the extra cargo space available due to our augmented flight frequencies. South Korea, various European destinations, and newly introduced Boston route.”



Stanislas Brun
Vice President, Cargo
Etihad Cargo

An increase in inflow of air cargo thanks to Red Sea crisis

“ The Middle East boasts several bustling cargo routes, including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Riyadh, and Bahrain, serving as junctions for cargo traffic from Asia, Europe, Africa, and North America. This strategic location benefits the region by facilitating mid-point cargo movement, identified by Fits Cargo as an opportunity to connect cargo from diverse origins to reach various destinations. The third and fourth quarters witness the highest transaction volumes owing to the ongoing Red Sea crisis. We have seen an increase in cargo flow through the Middle East over the past two months. To optimise logistic efforts, ME operators can enhance Road Feeder Service options within the region, expanding linkage from multiple points within the Middle East to address backlogs.”



Mohamed Jamsidh
Key Account Manager
Product Development
Fits Cargo

Middle East’s strategic location makes it central hub

“ The Middle East boasts two of the world’s busiest maritime arteries—Strait of Hormuz. This critical chokepoint facilitates the movement of over 21 million barrels of oil daily, supplying energy resources to Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Suez Canal shortens travel times between Asia and Europe by weeks. This strategic waterway is vital for global trade, including oil tanker traffic. The Middle East’s central location between continents makes it a natural trade hub. While specific peak transaction months can vary, they likely correlate with global trade patterns, potentially surging around holidays or year-end for inventory management. To maximise their logistical potential, the ME operators can look at upgrading ports and expanding capacity to handle larger cargo volumes.”



Robin Vermaat
Founder & CEO
RV Consultancy



The region has become key link in intercontinental trade

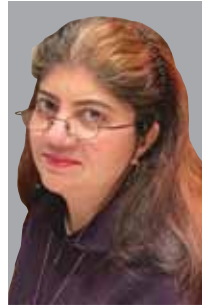
“ In the Middle East, the busiest cargo routes often link the region’s main commercial hubs and distribution centers. Due to its strategic position, the Middle East is a key link in intercontinental trade, linking Asia, Europe, and Africa. This role is significant for routes traversing the Red Sea and the Suez Canal and, connecting the leading oil-producing nations such as Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the UAE to the global market. The Suez Canal is a crucial maritime pathway, acting as the main artery between Asia and Europe. Air cargo is equally important, with hubs such as Dubai playing a central role in linking Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Terrestrial transportation corridors play a vital role, including routes from KSA to the Arabian Gulf countries and links from Turkey to Iraq or Iran.”



Pongsathorn Sangasang
Ground Operations and Commercial Director
Pattaya Airways

KSA, Qatar, the UAE have become busiest air cargo routes

“ As the logistics industry grows, it becomes imperative to save on time and travel costs. Geographic locations gain significance. For air cargo operators the busiest air routes are KSA, Qatar and the UAE. Operators in the region must devise ways and means to maximise their location to ensure the smooth transition of cargo. When geo-location services and capabilities are deployed, firms can optimise their air routes, track assets, identify bottlenecks and gain a better understanding of how and where their assets are going. Location services can better improve worker protection and the flow of goods and services at many levels of the supply chain. Many businesses that have operated in the supply chain visibility space for decades now are aggressively migrating from offline data collection and analysis products to nearly all real time.”



Simona Bakaya
Operations Manager
United Legacy Travels

Region is link in distribution of global e-commerce

“ The Middle East is playing an incredibly important role in the global distribution of e-commerce with a significant volume coming out of China and Hong Kong and routing through the Middle East to Europe in particular. The links between India and the Middle East are providing vital supply chain links for pharma and the high-tech goods. How can the operators maximise their logistic efforts owing to their geographic location? The answer is very simple, they already are. We are expecting that other production centres in South-east Asia, such as Vietnam, Malaysia, and south Korea will benefit from production and supply chain de-risking strategies. As such the middle east carriers will still be well positioned to connect those centres of manufacturing with the consumer centres in Europe and elsewhere.”



Glyn Hughes
Director General
TIACA





Indispensable for cargo flow between Asia, Europe, Africa

“ The Middle East hosts some of the world’s busiest cargo routes, with significant traffic passing through the Strait of Hormuz and the Suez Canal thus making MENA an important chokepoint for cargo. These vital waterways facilitate the movement of goods between Asia, Europe, and Africa, to the rest of the world making them indispensable in global sea cargo transport. The geographic location offers access to the rest of the world—in many ways acting as a bridge. MENA operators can optimise logistics efforts leveraging the strategic location as a physical bridge. This proximity fosters robust commercial activity, enhancing the region’s geographic significance. Busiest transaction months coincide with peak shipping seasons, during summer and early autumn, due to geographical reasons.”



Svetlana Chatterjee
Director, S CUBE Trans
Continental Group



Region witnessing expansion of airports to support air cargo

“ There has been demand for cargo in the Middle East, driven by the region’s strategic location between East and West and growing e-commerce activities. The Middle East is experiencing infrastructure development, including the expansion of airports and seaports, which supports the growth of cargo demand in the region. As per IATA projections, the ME is poised for a surge, with an estimated growth rate of 12.3 per cent in 2024. Key routes include those linking the Middle East to Africa, Asia, and Europe. The Middle East’s geographic location benefits the region in several ways. It serves as the crossroads for trade between Europe, Asia, and Africa, offering access to economically vibrant markets. Generally, the holiday season towards the year-end tends to see more economic activity due to festive shopping and travel.”



Santosh Kumar Soni
Head, Sales
Airglow Aviation Services

Digital transformation of warehouse operations

Digital warehousing has grown in response to the rapid evolution of digital channels. It has never been easier to launch and scale an online sales channel—from e-commerce shopping carts to third-party marketplaces, there are platforms to buy and sell online. Some professionals have given their views in this regard.

Abigail Mathias

The e-commerce platforms are not only flexible but can also be turned on or off based on product availability, seasonal demand, or profitability. They can be integrated through a multichannel listing platform, so that merchants can monitor and manage all their digital sales channels through a single dashboard.

In fact, digital warehousing is the next step in the logistics industry that is enabling merchants to fully integrate their sales channels with their fulfillment operations. A flexible and scalable warehousing solution is the only way for merchants to compete.

The first thought most people have when they think of digital warehousing is robotics and warehouse auto-

mation. Warehouse technology is an important part of the digital evolution of warehousing and fulfillment. It enables the staff to move quickly to keep up with the exponential growth of small parcels and e-commerce order volume.

The other key component to digital warehousing is in the software utilised to connect the warehouse to the merchants' sales platform.

New technology-enabled third party logistics, 4PL, and on-demand warehousing providers accord priority on building robust and flexible warehouse management systems to integrate seamlessly into a merchant's current technology stack. A powerful warehouse management systems will provide insights into real-time inventory levels, order statuses, and demand forecasting.





Guillaume Crozier, Senior VP, UAE Cargo & Global Cargo Strategy, dnata

With a strong commitment to innovation and excellence, dnata was the first to introduce cargo drones in the UAE



Guillaume Crozier
Senior Vice President, UAE Cargo
& Global Cargo Strategy, dnata

“The cargo drones have integrated into the day-to-day workflow and warehouse inventory processes.”

in 2021. The drones have integrated into the day-to-day workflow and warehouse inventory processes. Our partner, Gather AI, enables the drones to map the envi-

ronment, collect inventory data, count cases, measure temperature, and read barcodes. The collected data can be viewed directly on the tablet or the web dashboard, via a user-friendly application. The use of drones has also contributed to a reduction in carbon footprint and improved safety by reducing the need for cherry pickers and man lifts in the warehouse. The drones can operate at temperatures between 0°C and +50°C within a closed environment, enabling us to take advantage of the technology in our state-of-the-art cool chain facilities, too. We plan to introduce them at further stations across our global cargo network in the forthcoming years.

Hakim Ramadan, Partner and Director, Miebach Consulting

Combining different data sources help in visualising



Hakim Ramadan
Partner and Director
Miebach Consulting

the status and historic situations within the warehouse or the supply chain. Digitalisation provides transparency and insights into operation management. It offers improvements across asset usage, productivity, safety and quick response to exceptions. Digitalisation has an impact on the economic environment of any business. It leads to savings in administrative

operations, paperless work and process monitoring. The goal should be to equip employees in the best possible manner to live the change. In addition to training, clear and sincere messaging shows what the change means for

“Digital tools offer improvements in asset usage, productivity, safety and quick response to exceptions.”

them and create a transparent environment. This ensures concerns are raised and resolved proactively. We consider digitization as the



basis to unlock opportunities to integrate data-driven tools combined with gained subject matter expertise in supply chains. We expect AI to lead disruption in the supply chain, enhance the operations through utilising work performance and hence improve customer satisfaction.

Sijo Joseph Philip, Senior Manager, Orient Cargo

Digitalisation has improved warehouse management systems in several ways, leading to enhanced efficiency, accuracy, and overall cost-effectiveness. Digitalisation has transformed warehouse management in modern era, especially after the introduction of AI. Digitalisation allows for automation of various warehouse processes, including receiving, picking, packing, and shipping.

Automated workflows reduce manual labour, minimise processing times, and improve overall productivity. We are



Sijo Joseph Philip
Senior Manager
Orient Cargo

experiencing the benefits of digitalisation in warehouse management by using barcode system, storage optimisation, achieving real-time inventory tracking, helping to understand demand, prepare forecast, visibility, and data mining and integration. While the initial investment in digital WMS may be significant, the long-term benefits outweigh the costs. Improved efficiency, accuracy, and productivity help reduce operational expenses, labour

costs, and inventory holding costs. Optimised inventory management and streamlined operations lead to faster order fulfillment, reduced stockouts, and increased customer satisfaction, driving revenue growth and profitability. Overall, digitalisation in warehouse management is

“ The digital tools have better efficiency, accuracy and cost-effectiveness.”

seen as a worthwhile investment for businesses aiming to modernise and remain competitive in today’s dynamic supply chain environment.

TRAINING

Digitalisation often requires additional training for staff to

utilise new systems and technologies. This training can be perceived as an obstacle in quickly transitioning shipments as it takes time for employees to adapt to new processes and software. However, investing in comprehensive training programmes can help mitigate this obstacle and ensure a smoother transition in the long run. Staff training requirements for digitalisation impact the swift transition of shipments depend on various factors, including the complexity of the digital systems being implemented, the existing skill level of the workforce, and the availability of training resources. However, during the initial period of training, some hiccups do come up during transitions, but it ultimately equips employees with the necessary skillset.

Michael Reichle, former CEO, Siemens Logistics, and CEO, Innomatics

Having sold its parcel and mail business to the Körber





Michael Reichle
former CEO, Siemens Logistics,
current CEO, Innomatics

Group, Siemens Logistics continues to focus on flexible products and solutions for airport baggage and freight handling, with emphasis on automation and digitalisation. We are delighted that our parcel business—above all our former Siemens Parcel Logistics employees—have found a new home at Körber.

The technology of Körber and Siemens Parcel Logistics are a perfect fit for a solid entrepreneurial foundation of the future. The airport logistics solutions remains at Siemens AG and will continue to operate as an independent subsidiary within the corporate group.

We are seeing a distinct uptick in demand for air travel. Airport operators have been on the lookout for solutions to boost their overall efficiency, while being fast and flexible to implement. We

“**Airport operators have been on the lookout for solutions to boost overall efficiency.**”

are in an ideal position here with our portfolio of high-performance hardware and intelligent, cloud-based software combined with our international presence.

Mohammed Bilal Saleem, Manager, Operations & Documentation, Blue Bell Shipping International

Digitalisation is reshaping warehouse operations, empowering businesses with enhanced inventory tracking, optimised storage layouts and automated work-



Mohammed Bilal Saleem
Manager, Operations &
Documentation
Blue Bell Shipping International

“**Digitalisation is reshaping warehouse operations, empowering businesses with more inventory tracking etc.**”

flows. Real-time data enables predictive maintenance, cutting downtime and costs, while improved accuracy boosts customer satisfaction. Additionally, opti-



mised storage layouts will maximise space utilisation thereby enabling smoother workflows and reducing operational bottlenecks.

Despite initial costs, long-term gains in efficiency and reduced overhead make digitalisation cost-effective for modern warehouses. While digitalisation in warehouses requires additional skilled training for the staff, it is an essential investment. Although it may initially impact shipment transitions, trained workforce can optimise processes in order to ensure smoother operations and expedite shipments in the longer term. At our company, we have embraced this evolution by implementing advanced inventory tracking systems and optimised storage layouts, streamlining workflows, enhancing operational efficiency, and ensuring accuracy among others.

Supriya Salve Deshpande, Partner, Vega Logistics

Digitalisation has improved warehouse management systems in several ways. Digitalisation allows for automation of various processes within warehouse management, such as inventory tracking, order fulfillment, and scheduling. This automation reduces the need for manual intervention,



Supriya Salve Deshpande
Partner
Vega Logistics

minimises errors and increases efficiency.

WMS can provide real-time visibility into inventory levels, shipment statuses, and warehouse operations. This visibility enables better decision-making, as managers can quickly respond to changes in demand or unforeseen issues. Digitalized WMS can analyze data to optimise warehouse layout, storage configurations, and picking routes. By optimising these factors, warehouses can reduce travel time, improve throughput, and increase productivity.

A digitized WMS can integrate with other systems, such as enterprise resource planning software, transportation management systems, and customer relationship

management software. This integration streamlines processes across the supply chain, improving coordination and efficiency. Digitalized WMS are frequently scalable, allow-

“WMS can provide real-time visibility into inventory levels, shipment statuses, and warehouse ops.”

ing warehouses to adapt to changing business needs and scale operations as required. This scalability ensures that WMS can grow alongside the business without requiring significant overhauls.

In terms of cost-effectiveness, digitalisation of WMS can indeed be highly cost-effective in the long run. While there may be initial costs associated with implementing digitalised WMS, such as purchasing software, hardware, and training employees, the benefits frequently outweigh costs over time. These benefits include increased efficiency, reduced

labor costs, improved accuracy, better inventory management leading to reduced stockouts or overstocking, and enhanced customer satisfaction due to accurate order fulfillment. The return on investment for digitalised warehouse management systems can be substantial, making it a cost-effective solution for many businesses. Implementing digitalisation in warehouse management systems often needs staff training. Training is to ensure staff gain proficiency in using the new digital tools and processes. Training staff on digitalized WMS can involve many aspects. They need to learn how to use the new software, including navigation, data entry, and accessing info. This training may be provided by the software vendor or through internal training programmes.

KEY FEATURES

- Return on investment for digitalised warehouse management systems can be substantial, thereby making it a cost-effective solution for many businesses. Digitalisation of WMS can indeed be highly cost-effective in the long run.



A sustainable future for air cargo industry: TIACA

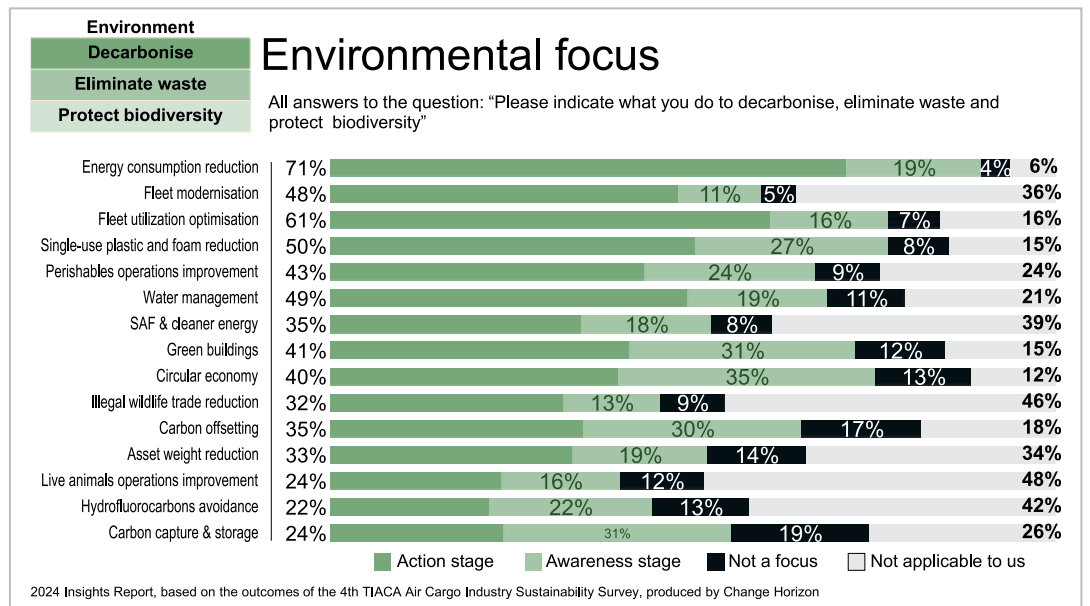
71% of airports confirm that they are transitioning to green buildings, while 79% are actively tackling their water management issues. Nearly 80% of them are also focusing on reducing their noise footprint, according to Insights Report, supporting TIACA’s Sustainability Programme and development of new projects.

CT Bureau

TIACA released the fourth comprehensive study undertaken on the air cargo industry’s sustainability position. The results compared to previous reports and published as the 2024 Insights Report, demonstrate the progress the industry has made towards a more sustainable future.

The Insights Report supports TIACA’s comprehensive Sustainability Programme focused on people, planet and prosperity supported by innovation and partnership. The report showcases the work of the Sustainability Programme and the development of new projects that support a sustainable air cargo industry.

“The results of the TIACA’s Insights Report are encouraging and while we have made pro-



gress on the sustainability front; we still have quite a lot of work to do. The Insights Report allows us to see how far we have come from the initial launch

four years ago to where we are today, as well as those areas that we need to put more focus on,” said Steven Polmans, Chair, TIACA.

The highlights of the report are as follows:

- 91 per cent of the respondents confirm C-suite sustainability is supported by their

CEO, 81 per cent by their CFO and 97 per cent highlight sustainability is more important than last year

- The survey reveals that companies see a clear link between their ESG performance and their reputation (85%) and attractiveness (73%) but less so for their bottom line (39%)
- The pressure from the regulators keeps increasing year over year: only 37 per cent of the respondents in 2021 indicated regulatory

pressure, while it is now 61 per cent, i.e. 6 points more than last year and 24 points compared to 2021

- While 71 per cent have a sustainability strategy, this number hides notable differences between large (92%) and small companies (46%)
- The air cargo industry first tackles efficiencies and operational excellence with innovation and digitalisation fuelling the modernisation efforts
- The industry continues investing in people through

training programmes (79%) and employee well-being (76%). About 70 per cent declare they take action to advance their diversity and inclusion credentials

- 71 per cent of airports confirm they are transitioning to green buildings, and 79 per cent are actively tackling their water management issues and 80 per cent are focusing on reducing their noise footprint

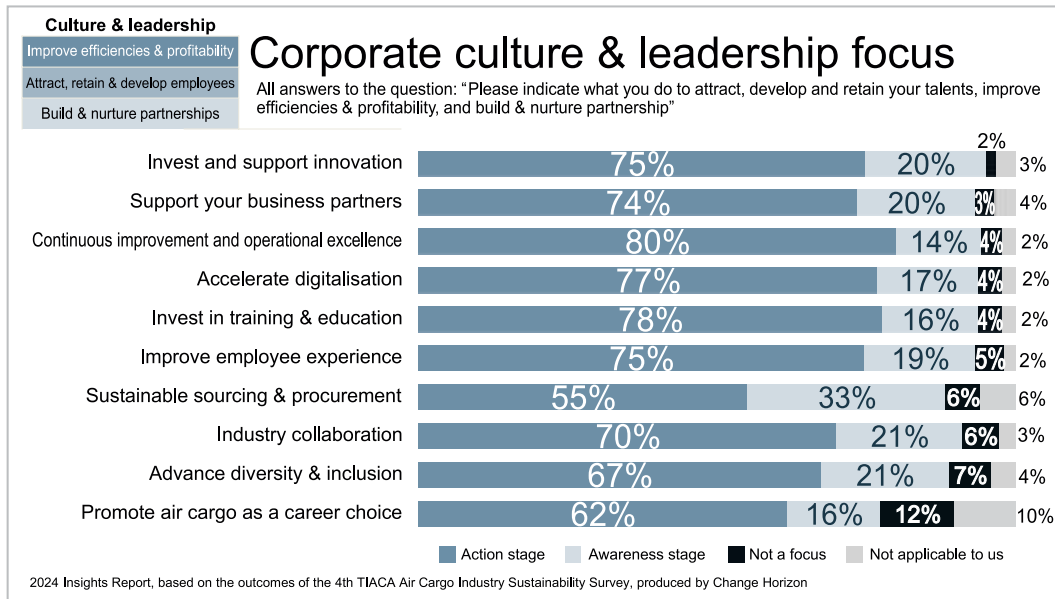
The report classifies the various aspects of sustain-



Steven Polmans
Chair
TIACA

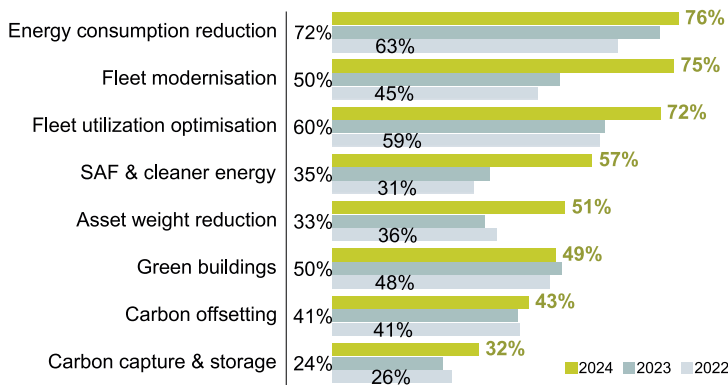
“While the cargo industry has made progress on the sustainability front, we still have quite a lot of work to do.”

ability into three key areas—encompassing critical items to operate successfully, essential items to grow and a wide range of exemplary areas to differentiate.

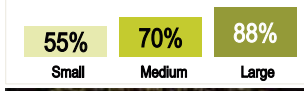


Industry focuses on its energy consumption to decarbonise, and reduce costs

How companies reduce (or plan to reduce) their carbon footprint



76% ↑+4
Of surveyed companies already reduce energy consumption in own operations



These figures reflect what respondents declared they are actively improving/reducing

2024 Insights Report, based on the outcomes of the 4th TIACA Air Cargo Industry Sustainability Survey, produced by Change Horizon



Glyn Hughes
Director General
TIACA

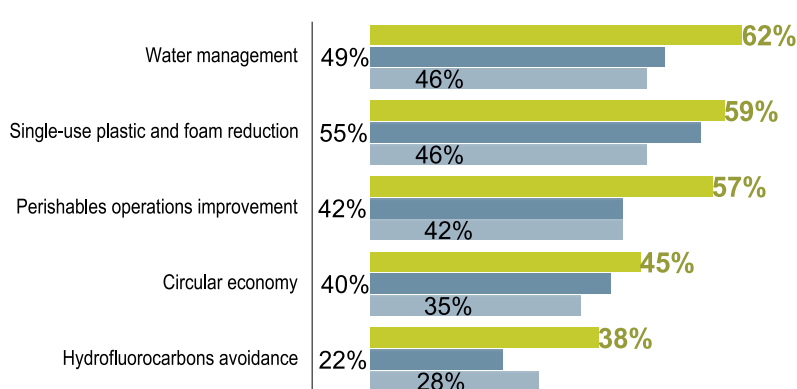
“The Insight Report states how vital sustainability has become in the industry & supports our Sustainability Programme.”

“This year’s Insights Report continues to underline how important sustainability has become within the industry and supports the association’s Sustainability Programme. As we continue our work on this front, we continue to look for ways and means that we as an association can help guide the industry towards a more sustainable future. As we move ahead, we look forward to the launch of new projects that will continue to support the industry’s sustainability path, including the Invest In Climate Action and the Air Cargo Training Library platforms, which are scheduled to be launched this week,” Glyn Hughes, Director General, TIACA, said.



The air cargo industry is boosting its waste & water management efforts

How companies actively improve their waste & water management



90%
Of surveyed companies focus on eliminating single-use plastic and foam (action or awareness stage)

100% of companies in Asia are looking at the plastic issue!

79%
Of airports confirm they are actively managing, saving and protecting water. That is 17 points more than the industry average!

These figures reflect what respondents declared they are actively improving/reducing

2024 Insights Report, based on the outcomes of the 4th TIACA Air Cargo Industry Sustainability Survey, produced by Change Horizon

KEY FEATURES

- This year’s report is compiled from nearly 300 responses from the industry covering airlines, airports, freight forwarders, ground handlers, shippers, equipment manufacturers, IT providers, and other bodies.



‘Despite hike in demand, shortage in SAF production’

Air cargo is critical for economy of all nations. CO₂ Connect, IEnvA set up for SAF procurement exemplify the industry’s commitment to reducing its impact, says **Brendan Sullivan, Global Head, Cargo, IATA**, at the recently concluded World Cargo Symposium.

 CT Bureau

Transparency in CO₂ emissions is critical as the air cargo industry makes progress towards net zero emissions by 2050. It will become a requirement and is being demanded by our customers who must report on their emissions, including to their stakeholders. To be credible, the players should be consistent. Reason why IATA is developing CO₂ Connect for Air Cargo

and partnering with the Smart Freight Center (SFC), in a collaboration that enables application of a unified methodology along the air cargo value chain for carbon emission calculations and reporting. CO₂ Connect for Cargo for calculating CO₂ emissions is powered by actual airline operational data and based on the industry-approved methodology. All governments need to support and strengthen the standards in Annex 18 of the Chicago Convention concerning

the safe transport of dangerous goods. Updates to Annex 18 will clarify who is responsible for what within the supply chain. “We urge all the countries to adopt and implement these changes to Annex 18, thereby ensuring the safety and efficiency of air transport for HAZMAT,” Sullivan said.

These actions demonstrate how the issues associated with lithium batteries are being managed with better tracking and

operational solutions. “Offenders must not fail to declare lithium batteries in cargo or mail shipment or transport those which do not comply with UN test criteria, or not prepare the shipments compromise with the safety and security regulations,” Sullivan added.

The growth in ferrying pharma by air and the rise in e-commerce has led to an increase in demand for real-time tracking. Shippers, cargo han-



dlers and stakeholders want to know the procedures for approval and use of tracking devices. The updated IATA Interactive Cargo Guidance provides a framework so that these devices can monitor quality and

accuracy of time and temperature-sensitive goods.

DIGITALISATION

“Of late, digitalisation is a blessing disguise for the industry. This has not happened as fast



Brendan Sullivan
Global Head, Cargo
IATA

as possible. But progress is real. Inefficient paper-based, manual processes are being replaced with digital solutions in all aspects of cargo processes from tracking to customs clearance,” he said.

Some countries have made progress in implementing strategies to facilitate trade, streamline border operations, and manage goods flow. For example, Brazil’s adoption of IATA’s Advance Cargo Information digital standards has given pace to cargo release times—from five days to just five hours! The authorities estimate this digital shift could reduce manual cargo processing by 90 per cent. The increasing number of pre-loading advance cargo information initiatives highlights the importance of sharing accurate data within the air cargo supply chain.

SUSTAINABILITY

SAF is the cornerstone of

the cargo industry’s decarbonisation efforts. There is no shortage of demand from airlines and shippers to use SAF. However, shortage of supply is the problem. “Production incentives are the way forward as we saw with the introduction of solar and

“Increasing pre-loading advance cargo info highlights sharing of accurate data within cargo supply chain.”

wind generation for electricity. Singapore is a good example. The government has recently taken steps to create a Sustainable Air Hub with a view to fostering SAF,” Sullivan remarked. “Initiatives such as CO₂ Connect, IEnvA and partnerships for SAF procurement exemplify the industry’s commitment to reducing its impact. For any industry to survive, change is essential. Constant change is never easy. But it is worth when that change delivers 60 million tonnes of cargo, powers economies, improves peoples’ lives, and makes the world a better place,” Sullivan added.





Meanwhile, IATA and the Smart Freight Centre have announced a partnership to provide consistent and transparent CO₂ emissions calculations for air freight shipments. This is an important step for international air transport to advance its decarbonisation efforts, Frederic Leger, Senior Vice President, Commercial Products & Services, IATA, asserted.

CARBON CALCULATIONS

“Our partnership with the Smart Freight Center will help us give pace to development of CO₂ Connect for air cargo as the best tool for carbon calculations. This is important for the airlines and shippers and their customers who need accurate calculations based on real data to support their contributions to global decarbonisation efforts,” said Leger, while addressing the recently held annual World Cargo Symposium.

The two organisations will focus on developing the cargo component of IATA’s CO₂ Connect offering. The IATA CO₂ Connect platform uses primary industry data to power highly accurate carbon calculations. The collaboration with the SFC Clean Air Transport Programme will promote



Frederic Leger
Senior Vice President, Commercial Products & Services, IATA

a common methodology in CO₂ emission calculations and ensure accurate and consistent CO₂ calculations are distributed to the industry’s biggest shippers and freight forwarders in the air cargo industry, supporting them with pre-shipment and reporting purposes.

“A key milestone has been reached and this took a long time in the making. The need for unified carbon emissions data is stronger than ever, and this will enable cargo transport service purchasers to make well-founded and long-term decisions. Transparency is the key to drive decarbonisation investments, encouraging collaborative and synergistic action throughout the value chain. Our partnership with IATA will enable effective

collaboration by building trust and exchanging information across the value chain which, in turn, will help in accelerating our strenuous efforts in decarbonising the aviation in-

“Tie-up with SFC will help us in developing CO₂ Connect—the best tool for carbon calculations.”

dustry,” said Andrea Schoen, Director, Clean Air Transport Programme, SFC.

PILOT PROJECT

IATA and SFC are working together with Kuehne+Nagel as a pilot customer for IATA CO₂ Connect for Cargo to ensure that the tool meets the requirements of freight forwarders and their customers.

“As a freight forwarder, we can attest to the value that this collaboration will bring to the cargo industry,” said Fabiano Piccinno, Global Head, Sustainability Air Logistics, Kuehne+Nagel. “We

are happy to bring our expertise on to the table, and look forward to seeing this project pave the way for future sustainable solutions in aviation.” The SFC Clean Air Transport Programme comprises 50 members, including airlines, freight forwarders, shippers and fuel providers. It engages in collaborative action to support the aviation’s decarbonisation efforts.

CO₂ CONNECT FOR AIR CARGO

IATA CO₂Connect for Cargo is a carbon emission calculator for the air cargo shipments, using primary data from the airlines. It will be available from the fourth quarter of this year. It considers airline-specific fuel burn from both freighters and passenger aircraft carrying belly cargo, airline specific cargo load factors, and passenger load factor (PLF) to determine the correct ratio in order to attribute to belly cargo.

The carbon data output thus provided will be aligned with IATA Recommended Practice 1678 and “we will provide additional output considering CO₂e and CO₂/tonne-km in a bid to meet the requirements of shippers reporting in those metrics, Leger said. 🌱

NAFL to develop platform for sustainable logistics

FIATA RAME 2024 successfully concluded recently in Dubai committing to working together to address the current disruptions in the logistics sector to build resilient and sustainable supply chains. We aim to turn the industry challenges to improve the trade flow in the region, says **Nadia Abdul Aziz, President, NAFL**.

 Abigail Mathias

An important outcome of the FIATA RAME (Region Africa Middle East) Field Meeting and Conference 2024, which concluded recently in Dubai, was the signing of a MoU between the National Association of Freight & Logistics (NAFL) and Kale Logistics, a leading provider of comprehensive cloud enterprise systems for the logistics sector. The partnership will focus on developing digital solutions to streamline processes and data analytics to facilitate trade.

The meeting committed to working together to address the current disruptions in the logistics sector to build resilient and sustainable supply chains. It was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Saeed Al Maktoum, Honorary Patron of NAFL.



Nadia Abdul Aziz
President
NAFL

It will further drive the digitalisation of the sector in the UAE, and enable NAFL stakeholders, members and the private sector in general to improve efficiency and transparency and benefit from a digital platform that supports operational processes and data sharing between stakeholders and facilitates the paperless exchange of trade-related

information. The platform, which will initially focus on the UAE market, aims to improve trade flows within the region and capitalise on the strategic location and connectivity of the country and the entire RAME region.


Thanking the participants, Nadia Abdul Aziz, President, NAFL, thanked the participants. “The FIATA-RAME conference was a valuable platform to foster collaboration and explore innovative solutions. The meeting identified several key areas for improvement in the regional logistics sector. One of our focus areas is harnessing the opportunities offered by digitalisation, particularly in the private sector, which includes many of our members. To this end, our partnership with Kale Logistics will help private sector players to streamline processes through digitalisation, measure sustainability data and simplify busi-

ness processes,” she said. “In the meantime, we are also talking to entities, which include National Information Centre, global audit experts and collaboration between the government players and the private sector to improve business and improve the sustainability of the sector. We aim to turn the industry challenges into opportunities,

“The meeting was a platform to foster partnerships & explore innovative solutions.”

improve the flow of trade in the region and utilise the connectivity of the UAE and the region to overcome the current challenges,” she added.

“Building resilience and sustainability in the African and Middle Eastern logistics industry requires a collaborative approach. We are encouraged by the discussions at the FIATA-RAME conference and the commitment of stakeholders to work together to overcome the challenges and create a resilient future for the industry,” Turgut Erkeskin, President, FIATA, said.

The event brought together key players from the African and Middle Eastern logistics and global experts from the industry, serving as a crucial platform for knowledge sharing, forging partnerships, and charting a path toward a more resilient and collaborative logistics landscape in Africa and the Middle East. 



Etihad & WFS tie-up for handling at 12 major airports

The combination of Etihad Cargo's expertise in transporting general and specialised cargo and handling capabilities of WFS give partners the confidence that their air cargo needs are in the best hands, regardless of where they are in the world, says **Thomas Schürmann, Head, Cargo Operations & Delivery.**

CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has signed a strategic agreement with Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a member of the SATS Group, for cargo handling services at 12 major international airports in Europe, Scandinavia, North America, India, and APAC.

The agreement is for a three-year period and will see WFS handling 150,000 tonnes of cargo annually for the Abu Dhabi-headquartered airline. In the EMEA region, the airports covered by the pact are Amsterdam, Bangkok, Barcelona, Bengaluru, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, London Heathrow, Madrid, and Paris CDG. In North America, it includes WFS' existing handling operations for Etihad Cargo in New York JFK and Washington Dulles, and now Boston and Chicago. Located at the centre of the world's busiest trade lanes, Etihad Cargo provides a strategic link to Africa, America, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Middle East via the airline's hub in Abu Dhabi, connecting prime cargo markets across the globe. It offers cargo capacity on both



Thomas Schürmann
Head
Cargo Operations & Delivery

“The deal is for a three-year period and will see WFS handling 150,000 tonnes of cargo.”

passenger and cargo aircraft and an extensive trucking network.

“Etihad Cargo's long-standing partnership with WFS and addition of new sta-



tions are a direct reflection of a shared commitment to delivering quality air cargo solutions globally. The combination of Etihad Cargo's expertise in ferrying general and specialised cargo and WFS' capability gives partners the confidence that their air cargo needs are in the best hands, regardless of where they are in the world,” **Thomas Schürmann, Head, Cargo Operations & Delivery, Etihad Cargo,** said.

“We thank Etihad Cargo for their trust in WFS, and for this


extension of our partnership. This agreement adds more airport stations for the airline. We value Etihad Cargo's partnership and their confidence in our ability to deliver high levels of service the airline's award-winning reputation is founded on. Being awarded responsibility for providing cargo handling services at so many major cargo airports highlight our ability to provide global network solutions,” Mohammed Esa, Global Head, Gateway Services Key Accounts & Strategy, SATS Group, said. 🇦🇪



Debate on **air freight future**, focus on impact of technology

Emirates SkyCargo hosted a debate on the topic. **His Excellency Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade** and event **Chair**, says, with global supply chains poised for change, we explored the impact of geopolitical disruption and demand for sustainable solutions.



 CT Bureau

Emirates SkyCargo, recently organised discussion on logistics and world trade and the challenges faced by the global supply chains, on the sidelines of the 13th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference (WTO MC13), hosted by the UAE Ministry of Economy and Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED) in the UAE capital. The event has brought together senior leaders across industries to provide a macro-view of the challenges, opportunities, and untapped potential of global logistics.


Under the title, 'Security, Sustainability and Digitalisation: A New Era for Trade and Cargo', the event was programmed by Economist Impact. It delved into the patterns of modern trade that see good worth trillions of US Dollars move across

the world daily. With global supply chains poised for change, the event has explored the impact of geopolitical disruption, growing demand for sustainable solutions, intersection

freight movements, forecast weather conditions, and support inventory management, all of which support our efforts to develop a smarter, transparent trading system,"

Manager, New Globalisation, Economist Impact.

Later, a panel of industry leaders from the world's reputable organisations discussed the outlook of global trade. Emirates SkyCargo, the cargo arm of Emirates, gave a comprehensive perspective on the cyclical peaks and troughs of trade patterns. Guided by Dubai's Economic Agenda, D33, which defines the city's vision of becoming a prominent economic hub, the airline works to improve trade flows and generate new, reciprocal business opportunities that help strengthen global economies by adding new and unique destinations to its vast network of 140 destinations.

MC13, hosted by the UAE Ministry of Economy and Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, was held at ADNEC Abu Dhabi from February 26 to 29. 

It brought together leaders across industries to provide a macro view of global logistics' challenges

for technology and security, and critical needs for resilient supply chains, underpinned by air freight.

"By leveraging the new generation of trade tech tools, we could not only strengthen global supply chains but also make them more efficient and contribute to our efforts to combat climate change. As we outline in our new Trade-Sustain-AI initiative, technologies such as AI can enhance

His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade and MC13 Chair, said.

Setting the foundation on the nexus between trade, investment, and geopolitics, Simon Evenett, renowned expert on trade and Professor at Switzerland's University of St Gallen was the keynote speaker, followed by a fire-side conversation moderated by Elizabeth Mackey, Senior

e-commerce cross border trade a boost to logistics

Saudia Cargo, WFS, Cainiao Group collaborate to create a business model for future e-commerce logistics gateways at international airports to cater to growing demand for high-quality logistics operations. The new model addresses growing demand for high-quality logistics operations in the Middle East and Europe.

CT Bureau

Saudia Cargo, Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a member of the SATS Group, and Cainiao Group have officially collaborated to optimise logistics processes through operational streamlining and the adoption of logistics innovations. An inauguration ceremony was recently held at Cainiao's Liege eHub at Liege Airport in Belgium.

The collaboration has also bolstered the logistics capacity of the eHub, with three temperature-controlled facilities jointly designed by the three parties. These include areas for loose 2-8°C (205 sqm), BUP 2-8°C (140 sqm), and loose 15-25°C (400 sqm), supporting the transportation of perishable and pharma cargo products. Additionally, the eHub has obtained BCP certification, enabling the transport of fresh goods and enhancing its capacity to facilitate cross-border trade.

This initiative addresses the growing demand for



high-quality logistics operations in the cross-border e-commerce sector, particularly in the Middle East and European markets. Earlier this year, Cainiao launched its international express shipping service, Global 5-Day Deliv-

ery, in collaboration with AliExpress, now available in 10 countries worldwide.

The collaboration between Saudia Cargo and Cainiao includes cargo flights from Hong Kong to Riyadh and Liege, tai-

lored to meet the increasing logistics demands in these key regions and enhancing e-commerce delivery efficiency. The contract extension to WFS for handling 50,000 tonnes annually on flights linking Liege and Riyadh underscores Sau-





dia Cargo's ambition for operational excellence and reliable logistics services.

WFS's investment in subletting part of the Cainiao facility in Liege illustrates its commitment to innovation and efficiency, creating a dedicated area for swift and real-time information processing. The integration of innovative technology solutions, including AGVs, advanced PDAs, digital dashboards, and live tracking systems, supports a new generation of

cargo management systems utilising IoT technology to drive efficient and sustainable e-commerce handling.

"Our collaboration will address the burgeoning significance of e-commerce in the air cargo sector. Our aim is to introduce a business model that enhances efficiency, reliability, and innovation on a global scale, reshaping the landscape of global trade. With the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia serving as a pivotal market, our operations into Liege solidify its status as a crucial hub for efficient connections to Europe, while strengthening our position in the KSA market," Zebitz, CEO, Saudia Cargo, remarked.

"Central to this endeavor is our partnership with Cainiao, leveraging their unparalleled capacity and global network. Our meticulous process, from pre-built ULDs in Hong Kong to seamless handover in Liege via Riyadh,

The aim is to introduce a business model for enhancing efficiency, reliability, and innovation on a global scale

ensures an uninterrupted flow of e-commerce materials. As we expand our capacity and cargo flights worldwide, the collaboration with WFS/SATS underscores our commitment to innovation and efficiency, revolutionising e-commerce handling with cutting-edge technologies," he added.

"WFS is proud to tie-up with Cainiao and Saudia Cargo. As leaders in their respective fields, they recognise that the key aspects of e-

commerce and cargo handling supply chains are most efficient when delivered by experienced and trusted partners. By combining WFS' proven handling capabilities with the use of innovative tech, our team in Liege looks forward to delivering the clearly defined service standards set by Cainiao and Saudia, and supporting the growth of our collaboration," John Batten, CEO, Middle East, Africa and Asia (EMEA), WFS, a member of the SATS Group, commented.

"Cainiao is committed to altering the logistics industry by enabling a seamless e-commerce experience. By equipping our Liege eHub with cutting-edge tech solutions and facilities, we managed to boost the efficiency of logistics operations. We are confident this win-win collaboration will reinforce Cainiao's position as leading cross-border e-commerce logistics provider," Eric Xu, Vice President, Cainiao Group, said. 🌟



Autonomous drones speed up dnata's inventory

Results of drone usage include 20% reduction in processing times and 99% accuracy in shipment tracking. dnata's partner, Gather AI, enables drones to map environment, collect inventory data, count cases by using their cameras, says **Guillaume Crozier, Senior VP, UAE Cargo & Global Cargo Strategy, dnata.**

CT Bureau

dnata, the leading global air and travel services provider, announced the successful integration of autonomous drones into its cargo operations in Dubai. dnata's strategic initiative has significantly enhanced operational efficiencies, delivering remarkable benefits for airline customers at both Dubai International Airport and Dubai World Central Airport.

dnata was the first to introduce drones to its cargo operations in the UAE in 2021. The drones have seamlessly



Guillaume Crozier
Senior Vice President for UAE Cargo and Global Cargo Strategy
dnata

integrated into the day-to-day workflow and warehouse inventory processes. On av-

“dnata's cargo drones monitor 1,800 shipments daily with 99 per cent accuracy across 2,400 rack locations.”

erage, dnata's drones monitor some 1,800 shipments daily with 99 per cent accuracy across 2,400 rack locations

and 20 per cent reduction in processing times, **Guillaume Crozier, Senior Vice President, UAE Cargo and Global Cargo Strategy, dnata,** said.

dnata's software partner, Gather AI, enables the drones to map the environment, collect inventory data, count cases, measure temperature, and read barcodes using only their cameras, without need for more infrastructure. The drones are paired to a tablet device providing live inventory data. The data can be viewed directly on the tablet or the web dashboard, via a user-friendly application.





“Gather AI and dnata have already turned the vision of a fully digitized air cargo ecosystem into a ground-breaking reality. Our autonomous inventory drones are not merely futuristic concepts; they are operational gamechangers today,” Sankalp Arora, CEO & Co-founder, Gather AI, said.



With routine tasks automated, human resources can be allocated to complex responsibilities, improving overall workforce productivity. The use of drones has contributed to a reduction in carbon footprint and improved safety by reducing the need for mobile elevating work platforms. The drones can operate from 0°C to over 50°C within a closed environment, enabling dnata to take advantage of the technology in its cool chain facilities, too. dnata has plans to introduce them at further stations across its global cargo network in the next years.

In recent years, dnata has invested in cutting-edge tech to further enhance efficiencies across its cargo operations. In addition to the launch of autonomous drones in its warehouses, key milestones include the rollout of its digital cargo management system, OneCargo.

OneCargo also automates key business and operational functions, including safety and quality monitoring, reporting and ULD management, with an integrated, cloud-based platform. The launch of autonomous drones

in our operations reflects our commitment to delivering top-notch services through the latest technologies, enabling real-time transparency into the inventory and air cargo processes. dnata has been at the forefront of the digital revolution in air cargo, and we at Gather AI are proud to be the technology partners that have made this vision come alive,” Arora added. To date, dnata has launched OneCargo in its operations in six countries, including Iraq, Pakistan, Switzerland, UAE, USA and Zanzibar (Tanzania) across its global network. 🚀



More funds pumped to perk up **infrastructure** in Oman

General and bulk cargo reached more than 93 million tonnes in the past year with this number expected to rise. Khazaen Economic Zone’s roads project is also likely to be completed in first quarter of this year. To improve connectivity for the benefit of trucking, road projects were also taken up.



CT Bureau

Total investment opportunities for the first and second phases of transport and logistics stood at OMR1.6 billion, said Eng Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and IT, said. During the past year, 98 tenders were awarded with a total value of over OMR612 million, including 56 tenders for the transport and logistics sector, and 32 others for the information and communications technology sector.

This was discussed at the 11th media briefing of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT, held to review the ministry’s executive plan for this year and the projects implemented in 2023.

The volume of general and bulk cargo reached 93 mil-



Eng Hamoud Al Maawali
, Minister of Transport, Communications and IT

lion tonnes. The performance of government institutions in measuring government digital transformation reached 72 per cent, as the procedures for 578 digital services were simplified, the Minister said.

Regarding logistical connectivity projects for 2024, Al Maawali said the ministry is implementing Khazaen Economic

Zone’s roads project, which is planned to be completed in the first quarter of this year.

During a visual presentation during the media briefing, the volume of general and bulk cargo reached 93 million tonnes, and the number of Omani flagged ships and marine units were 662 the Omani ports received 11,000 ships in 2023.

“The ministry is working on launching the unified national portal project for electronic government services in the communications and IT sector for this year and implementing many projects for the National Centre for Space, AI and advanced technology,” he said.

The ministry is also implementing Khazaen Economic Zone’s roads project, which is planned to be completed in the first quarter of this year, Al

Maawali said, regarding logistical connectivity projects for this year. During the media briefing, the “Green Mobility Award” was launched, the or-

“Ministry is implementing KEZ’s roads project, which is planned to be completed in Q1 of this year.”


ganisation of the second Green Mobility Forum was announced during the current year (2024), and the designation of the April 30 each year as a day for the logistics sector in the Sultanate of Oman. 🇦🇴

Now, Emirates SkyCargo is live on cargo.one

The new channel cements Emirates SkyCargo's presence on three of the biggest digital marketplaces, providing more choice and flexibility for global customers. During the initial phase, the partnership will roll out in Europe before expanding across the Americas, Africa, the Far East and Australasia.



Jeffrey van Haeften
Senior Vice President Cargo
Commercial Worldwide
Emirates SkyCargo

 CT Bureau

Cementing its presence on three of the biggest digital marketplaces for air freight logistics, Emirates SkyCargo is live on cargo.one. The partnership underscores Emirates SkyCargo's long-standing commitment to implement digital solutions that streamline operations and drive efficiency. Bolstering its

advanced and customer-centric digital distribution strategy, partnering with cargo.one ensures Emirates SkyCargo offers are present where its customers wish to book.

Through cargo.one, partners and customers will be able to access Emirates SkyCargo schedules, tariff and contract rates,

Africa, the Far East and Australasia. cargo.one now contributes to Emirates SkyCargo's digital status in the market, with its seamless booking experience and reaching 15,000 freight forwarders across the world.

"Digitalisation is the key to help the world work better, provide flexible and convenient

of our brand. We will continue to invest in digital solutions and cement partnerships such as the one with cargo.one to expedite the movement of goods all over the world," Jeffrey van Haeften, Senior Vice President Cargo Commercial Worldwide, Emirates SkyCargo, said.

Emirates SkyCargo's four core products are listed on cargo.one, including Emirates Fresh, Emirates Fresh Breathe—an integrated and responsive cool chain purpose-built for perishables—Emirates Airfreight Priority, for urgent shipments that require speed and reliability, and Emirates Airfreight.

“Digitalisation is key to help world work better, provide flexible options for freight forwarders to seamlessly access Emirates SkyCargo's world-class products”

along with real-time access to available capacity, empowering freight forwarders to make bookings at any time. During the initial launch phase, the partnership will roll out in select countries in Europe before expanding across the Americas,

options for freight forwarders to seamlessly access Emirates SkyCargo's world-class product and services. By streamlining our quotations and bookings, we enable our teams to focus on providing outstanding customer service, which is the cornerstone

KEY FEATURES

- Emirates SkyCargo's core products include Emirates Fresh, Emirates Fresh Breathe and Emirates Priority.



Digital optimisation tool for developing partnerships

Ertihad Cargo will roll out Sales Cockpit globally, providing a real-time snapshot of its business on select routes. Along with Rotate, 50 Etihad Cargo team members spent 1,000 hours in development of the tool out of total 6,000 development hours, says **Stanislas Brun, Vice President, Cargo**.



CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo will soon launch Sales Cockpit, a digital sales optimisation tool that will enable the carrier to enhance customer relationships and add value to its partnerships. Etihad Cargo partnered with Netherlands-based Rotate in May 2023 to co-develop Sales Cockpit with the aim of utilising data and ML to improve customer service and gain a more in-depth understanding of the carrier’s partners.

Using custom-built algorithms to analyse data, Sales Cockpit generates tailored and customisable recommendations on how users can strengthen customer relationships by identifying current and future opportunities.

Etihad Cargo and Rotate have completed the co-development and delivery of



Stanislas Brun
Vice President, Cargo
Etihad Cargo

the first-of-its-kind tool. The carrier will now roll out Sales Cockpit globally, providing a snapshot of Etihad Cargo’s business on select routes.

“The successful completion of Sales Cockpit in partnership with Rotate will benefit Etihad Cargo’s partners. The tailored recommendations provided by this innovative tool will help Etihad Cargo develop stronger

partnerships and help customers achieve their business objectives,” **Stanislas Brun, Vice President, Cargo, Etihad Cargo**, said.

“Co-developing the tool with an innovative partner like Etihad Cargo gave us access to an expert team to build the solution. The collaboration helped maximise adoption, as both Head Office and local teams were involved throughout its development,” Ryan Keyrouse, CEO, Rotate, said.

Over 50 Etihad Cargo team members were involved in developing Sales Cockpit, contributing over 1,000 of the total 6,000 development hours. During the development phase, Rotate and Etihad Cargo’s steering team visited 10 of the carrier’s global stations in 20 weeks, allowing improvements to be implemented in real-time following feedback from Etihad Cargo teams.

“Etihad Cargo and Rotate’s partnership has enabled the carrier to provide its expertise to help unlock the full potential of digitalisation. The digital tool will not only benefit Etihad Cargo and its customers but also has the potential to transform how other carriers in the wider air cargo

“The tool will benefit Etihad Cargo and has the potential to alter other cargo flights.”

community get access to the vast amount of data, and use the same to start having more meaningful and engaging conversations with their customers,” Brun added.



(Third from right) His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman, Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group with aviation professionals in Dubai

Focus on sustainability, innovation at Airport Show

To be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman, Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group, it will be attended by expert players in the region's aviation and air cargo sectors.

CT Bureau

The 23rd Airport Show, the largest annual airport exhibition of the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia (MEASA) region, will take place from May 14 to 16, 2024 at DWTC, Dubai. Key players in the region's aviation sector and longstanding partners of the show, including the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Dubai Airports, Dubai Aviation Engineering Projects, Emirates, Dubai Air Navigation Services and dnata will continue supporting the event.

The event will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman, Dubai Airports, and Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group.



This apart, the event and co-located ones—the ATC Forum, Airport Security Middle East, the Global Airport Leaders' Forum, and the Women in Aviation Middle East Chapter Conference—have the collective endorsement of Dubai's aviation community, as they help

the efforts towards ensuring the transformation of airports to meet passenger expectations and enhance safety, security, and ease of flying.

His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said, "The business event will

provide professionals from the Middle East, South Asia, and the African region, the opportunity to see innovations in airport such as sustainability, digitalisation, and urban air mobility. The airport show will remain the best venue to select and source the cutting-edge technologies and newest innovative products to better the airport operations." His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum added, "The airport show will remain the best venue to select and source the cutting-edge technologies and newest innovative products to better the airport operations."

Embodying the theme of 'Sustainability and Innovation,' the two-day event will underline the air cargo industry's dedication to embracing cutting-edge technologies and sustainability efforts to generate growth and boost operational efficiency. 🌱

Now, send **lithium batteries** with dnata by air freight

The certification comes 12 months after the handler's IATA CEIV lithium battery programme began. The achievement underscores dnata's efforts to maintain the highest standards in handling HAZMAT, says **Guillaume Crozier, Senior Vice President, UAE Cargo and Global Cargo Strategy.**



Guillaume Crozier
Senior Vice President, UAE Cargo
& Global Cargo Strategy

CT Bureau

dnata, a leading global air and travel services provider, was awarded IATA's Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) accreditation for the safe and compliant handling of lithium batteries.

This achievement underlines the company's commitment to meeting rigorous safety standards and regulatory requirements in the handling

of potentially hazardous materials. The company's journey with IATA's CEIV lithium battery programme began in April 2023. Less than 12 months later, it became the first ground

services provider to certify 11 of its worldwide stations, which took part in a comprehensive audit process. dnata's stations in Australia and Pakistan were the first to complete

“Our journey with IATA's CEIV lithium battery programme began in April 2023. Twelve months later, dnata became the first to certify 11 of its worldwide stations.”

the assessment phase, followed by Singapore, Belgium, the UK, and the UAE. The IATA certification ceremony for these stations took place at the recent World Cargo Symposium in Hong Kong.





(Centre) Guillaume Crozier, SVP, UAE Cargo & Global Cargo Strategy, dnata, presented with IATA's CEIV Lithium Battery Certification by (Left) Frederic Leger, SVP, Commercial Products & Service, IATA, and (Right) Brendan Sullivan, Global Head, Cargo, IATA, at the recent annual IATA World Cargo Symposium

“We are pleased to achieve IATA’s CEIV Lithium Battery accreditation, a testament to our commitment to safety and compliance. This recognition underscores our efforts

to maintain the highest standards in the ground handling of dangerous goods, ensuring the rigorous safety of our operations,” **Guillaume Crozier, Senior Vice President, UAE Cargo & Global Cargo Strategy, dnata**, said.

“The volume of air shipments containing lithium batteries is increasing. Transportation of these items has been accorded top priority. Key to this is complying with regulatory changes and the integration of best practices in lithium bat-

tery handling across the supply chain. Reason why CEIV Lithium Batteries was established,” **Brendan Sullivan, Global Head, Cargo, IATA**, said.

“We commend dnata for being the first ground handling agent to achieve CEIV lithium battery certification across its global network. This accomplishment not only benefits dnata’s customers by guaranteeing their shipments are handled with utmost efficiency and safety but also sets a quality benchmark for the air

cargo industry,” he added. In recent years, dnata has made investments in training to enhance safety and improve efficiency in the handling of dangerous goods. In 2021, it became the first global air services provider to adopt IATA’s Dangerous Goods Autocheck (DG Autocheck) platform for the acceptance of HAZMAT shipments. In December 2023, dnata was accredited with IATA’s Corporate Certification for competency-based training and assessment (CBTA) for Dangerous Goods. 🇦🇪



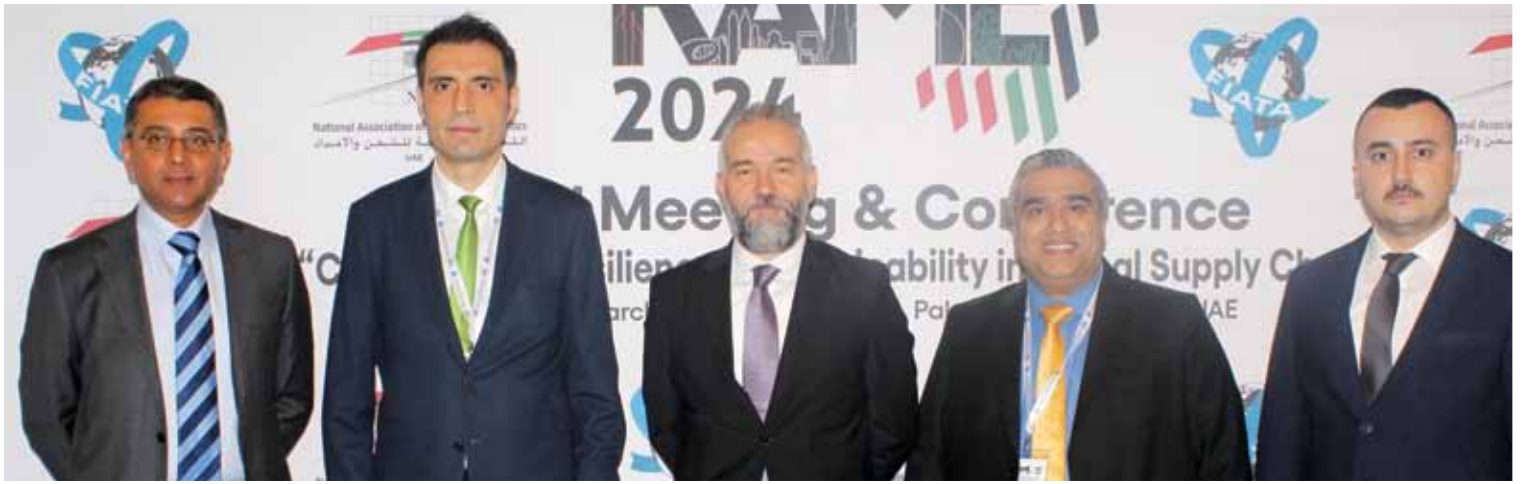
Sustainability to the fore at **FIATA RAME 2024**

More than 700 international experts, practitioners and operators in the air freight and logistics industry attended a two-day conference in Dubai hosted by NAFL in partnership with FIATA. The theme of the conference was 'Connectivity, Resilience and Sustainability in Global Supply Chains'.












Changing **logistics landscape** of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Expanding its presence in the KSA is an area of strategic focus as the logistics and transportation sector is evolving around the region. Aramex is proud to take the lead in bringing logistics solutions, advanced technology to support its clients across KSA, says **Othman Aljeda, CEO**.

 CT Bureau

Aramex, a leading global logistics and transportation firm, has strengthened its presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the inauguration of a new regional office in Riyadh, thereby reinforcing its commitment to transform the logistics sector under the Kingdom's Vision 2030 plan.

It will not only enhance Aramex's capabilities to serve new and existing businesses across the region, but also boost the Kingdom's logistics infrastructure and contribute to the Vision 2030 goal of establishing KSA as a global logistics hub. The new regional headquarters and Aramex's commitment to innovation will benefit the logistics sector and contribute to Vi-



Othman Aljeda
CEO
Aramex


sion 2030's emphasis on digital capacity building and advancement. The company has worked side-by-side with government and enterprise sectors in the Kingdom for decades together, and its new office would provide the launchpad for developing exciting new projects with ben-

“Our new office will be the launchpad for developing new projects for the KSA economy, while shaping the skills needed to support the Vision 2030 agenda.”

efits to the KSA economy, while enabling investment in talent development and shaping the skills needed to support the Vision 2030 agenda.

“Expanding our presence in KSA is an area of focus for us as the logistics and transportation sector is evolving rapidly in the region. Aramex is proud to take the lead in bringing logistics solutions and advanced technology to support our clients across the Kingdom and

beyond,” **Othman Aljeda, CEO, Aramex**, said.

The regional headquarters in the KSA aims to attract MNCs to set up their headquarters and position it as the leading commercial, industrial and investment hub for the MENA region, offering a range of benefits and premium support services. The programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Investment (MISA) and the Royal Commission for Riyadh City (RCRC). 



DP WORLD launches global freight forwarding network

As we continue to grow our freight forwarding footprint, we are building a network that will cover over 90% of global trade. We are focused on densifying our network as we build a best-in-class, strong and resilient global capability, says **Beat Simon, Group Chief Commercial Officer, Logistics, DP World**.

CT Bureau

Marking a significant expansion aimed at navigating the complexities of global trade, DP World has inaugurated more than 100 freight forwarding offices across the world. In response to increasing disruptions to global trade—from climate change, geopolitics and macroeconomic challenges—DP World has embarked on a bold initiative to bolster its commitment to its customers.

Fueled by global trade disruptions, businesses are now prioritising dynamic strategies to build resilience into their supply chains, as per Economist Impact research. The traditional asset-light freight forwarding model, which moves cargo via third parties, has proven to be susceptible to disruption at key chokepoints and can have knock-on effects for inventory



Beat Simon
Group Chief Commercial Officer
Logistics, DP World

and fulfilment planning for businesses and their customers.

“Our expansion in freight forwarding complements our end-to-end supply chain solutions and capabilities. Our asset appropriate approach is a step-change for the freight forwarding industry that puts customers in the driving seat with more visibility and control and gives them confidence to trade

in today’s global market,” **Beat Simon, Group Chief Commercial Officer, Logistics, DP World**, said.

“As we continue to grow our freight forwarding footprint, we are building a network that will cover more than 90 per cent of global trade. We are focused

on densifying our network as we build a best-in-class, strong and resilient global capability,” Simon added. With businesses seeking increased control over their supply chains, DP World’s global expansion comes at a piv-

“As we continue to grow our freight forwarding footprint, we are building a network that will cover more than 90 per cent of the international trade.”

otal time for the international logistics and supply chain industry. By expanding its freight forwarding with a focus on air and ocean freight, DP World will deploy its ‘toolbox’ of services or capabilities made up of ports, terminals, warehouses, trucks, rail and shipping services, among others to

increase control and resilience, supported by proprietary digital technology, while working with complementary partners across the supply chain to boost efficiency.

DP World offers a variety of value-add services, including embedded trade finance, commodity-specific services, cars in containers, transload and advanced hubs and more. This is all accessed through a single digital window that is backed by an integrated Global Services Centre that centralises back-end processes, made up of over 500 IT specialists. The advanced digital system means customers can track their goods in real time and easily manage their cargo journey.

The growing service currently spans order and origin management, port handling and freight management for ocean and air, and at-destination services such as customs, logistics, last-mile delivery, deconsolidation and bonded warehousing services. 🚚



KQ Cargo's maiden freighter takes off from Sharjah airport

KQ Cargo announced its recent route expansion, including direct cargo flights from Sharjah, at a networking event. In attendance at the event included Dick Muriainki, Director, KQ Cargo; George Kamal, Chief Operating Officer, Kenya Airways, and Kariuki Mugwe, Charge D'Affaires, Kenya Consulate.



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Jafza fuels trade growth between UAE and India

Jebel Ali Free Zone witnesses 28% YoY surge in new Indian businesses. Currently, Jafza serves 10,000 companies from 130 countries, with 87% of UAE's non-oil trade with India coming through Dubai. With Bharat Mart we will revolutionise trade, says **Abdulla Al Hashmi, COO, Parks & Zones, DP World GCC.**

CT Bureau

Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza) is emerging as the powerhouse driving the unprecedented growth of India-UAE trade, with a 28 per cent year-on-year surge in new Indian businesses setting up in the trade and logistics hub.

Jafza links businesses to Jebel Ali's new Agri Terminals facility, which broke ground in February 2024. The AED 550 million complex will establish the largest multi-tenant facility in Dubai for storing and processing grains for domestic consumption and export to the wider region. The first phase of the project is scheduled for completion in early 2025. Together, the port and free zone offer a comprehensive logistics solution to help Indian companies thrive.

Bharat Mart, whose foundation stone was laid in Febru-



Abdulla Al Hashmi
Chief Operating Officer, Parks & Zones
DP World GCC

ary 2024 by His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, took the spotlight at the events. Scheduled to open in 2026, Bharat Mart will allow Indian traders to reach local and international customers in the Middle East, Africa and Europe by

providing comprehensive supply chain solutions that integrate retail, warehousing, and logistics services into one streamlined operation. The project has generated nearly 3,000 business leads in less than one month.

"We have received overwhelming interest from Indian businesses who are keen to establish a presence in Jafza and leverage our world-class infrastructure, network and market access. With Bharat Mart, we will continue to revolutionise trade, opening new pathways that strengthen economic partnerships and facilitate seamless global commerce," **Abdulla Al Hashmi, Chief Operating Officer, Parks & Zones, DP World GCC,** said, elaborating on the platform's potential impact.

DP World's flagship economic zone has seen 190 new

companies from India established in 2023, bringing the total number of Indian businesses in Jafza up by 15 per cent year-on-year to more than 1,500.

Currently, Jafza serves over 10,000 companies from 130 countries, with 87 per cent of UAE's non-oil trade with India coming through Dubai. Indian companies represent the second largest partners in terms of trade volume and are fourth in terms of trade value at Jafza.

A total of 1,500 Indian firms have been set up in DP World's economic zone



The gathering at a series of Jafza trade events held in coordination with UAE-India Business Council shed light on the trade ties between the UAE and India since the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was inked in May 2022.

As a testament to the agreement's success, non-oil bilateral trade between the UAE and India reached US\$50.5 billion in the first year, recording an annual increase of 5.8 per cent. The goal is to increase non-oil trade to US\$100 billion by the year 2030. The agreement's impact is boosted by the DP World's India-UAE Trade Bridge initiative, which was launched in 2019, streamlines shipping between the two countries, reduces costs and generates new business opportunities. 🇮🇳

RCU hosts first Supply Chain Forum in Riyadh



The Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU) hosted leading contractors at its first-ever Supply Chain Forum, held in Riyadh, Abdulrahman Altheneyan, Chief, Shared Services, RCU, said. The inaugural event was an opportunity to become part of RCU's network of partners in diverse sectors, including construction, urban development, economic regeneration, and more, while helping to establish AIUla as the destination for wide-ranging projects aligned with the goals of KSA's Vision 2030 plan. "As one of the largest development projects ever undertaken, RCU's work in AIUla is a key driver in the delivery Vision 2030 plan," Altheneyan said. This first edition of what could become an annual Supply Chain Forum had the attendance of dozens of the top construction and development contractors working within the KSA.

UAE firm invests in European logistics assets



UAE-based Aldar Properties PJSC has invested 407 million Dirhams (US\$111 million) in logistics and storage assets in Europe through a partnership with global investment firm Carlyle, as it pursues its global expansion plans. "In partnering with Carlyle, an established player in European market, we are gaining quality access to a real estate segment that offers high yield and steady capital growth," Talal Al Dhiyebi, CEO, Aldar, said.

Emirates SkyCargo foresees operational growth of up to 8% this year



Emirates SkyCargo is expecting an operational growth of up to 8 per cent this year, on the strength of UAE's strong infrastructure and connectivity between airports and seaports, facilitating air-sea cargo movement worldwide, a report stated. Emphasising the UAE's vital role in global trade, Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo, underscored the achievement of consistent growth rates within the nation's cargo sector, ranging from 20-25 per cent annually. He attributed this to UAE's robust infrastructure and seamless connectivity between airports and seaports, facilitating efficient air-sea cargo movement worldwide.

Zamil Steel wins construction contract for Bahri Logistics complex in KSA

Zamil Steel Pre-Engineered Buildings Company, a subsidiary of Saudi-based conglomerate Zamil Industrial, has clinched a contract from Bahri Logistics Company for the construction of the Bahri Bonded Zone complex at Jeddah Islamic Port.

Bahri Bonded Zone is aimed at establishing a world-class logistics hub within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This marks a milestone for the company in solidifying its position as a trusted partner for large-scale and complex logistics infrastructure projects in the Kingdom, Nawaf Mohammed Al

Zamil, President, Zamil Steel Company, said, after signing the contract with Mohammed

Mikwar, Contract Logistics Senior Manager, Bahri Logistics Company, said.



Inter-Arab trade stands at US\$700 billion: Arab Chambers

Inter-Arab trade currently stands at US\$700 billion, making for 10-11 per cent of the global trade, Dr Khaled Hanafi, Secretary-General, Union of Arab Chambers, said. On the sidelines of the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi, he pointed to the necessity of fostering growth by standardising specifications, enhancing logistics, and promoting private sector involvement. The UAE's trade achievements, notably in fostering free trade



and investment, are seen as pivotal for global economic growth, Hanafi said. Its strategic positioning and robust infrastructure make it a preferred hub for global businesses, attracting investors, traders, and producers seeking access to international markets, he added. He explained that investors worldwide regard the UAE as a launching pad for global market penetration due to its facilitative infrastructure and market accessibility.

Cargolux gets tough with disposable e-cigarettes



Cargolux will no longer transport disposable electronic cigarettes in response to several concerns health and environment impact. The ban would apply to Cargolux Italia and comes in response to “growing concern about the effects of these products on both public health and the environment”, Cargolux stated. Disposable

e-cigarettes pose a risk to human health, particularly for younger generations, given their targeted marketing with attractive flavours. “The ban on transporting disposable electronic cigarettes reflects Cargolux’s commitment to the environment and public health and safety,” Richard Forson, President and Chief Executive, Cargolux

said. “Additionally, these devices contain lithium batteries which become an environmental risk if not properly disposed of. Many countries have banned these products in their territories,” the carrier stated. “With this action, we hope to contribute to reducing the availability of these products on the market,” Forson added.

Kerry Logistics acquires majority stake in French forwarder’s ‘Business By Air’ concept



Kerry Logistics Network has acquired a majority stake in French freight forwarder, Business By Air (BBA), to strengthen the firm’s position in the Europe, Middle East

and Africa region. BBA specialises in industrial clients covering verticals such as automotive, aerospace and pharmaceuticals and has acted as its agent in France since

2016, Kerry stated. “We are looking forward to the synergies created between KLN’s ocean freight capabilities and BBA’s airfreight expertise, and the extension of our service into the niche verticals of fine arts and perishables, which will further boost our global coverage and competency to offer comprehensive and flexible solutions to customers,” Vic Cheung, Group MD Managing Director, Kerry Logistics Network, said. “BBA also offers a complete suite of supply chain solutions covering express, onboard couriers, project cargo, and logistics for fine arts, perishables and personal effects,” Kerry stated in a release.

DHL to manage ground handling operations at Liverpool airport



DHL Supply Chain announced a new five-year contract with easyJet for ground handling operations at Liverpool John Lennon Airport. The contract will see DHL deliver core customer service and logistics operations at Liverpool airport, including check-in, bag-drop, baggage logistics, gate management, aircraft loading, dispatch, and pushback. As part of the new contract, DHL will introduce electric equipment, with a target of transitioning to a 90 per cent electric fleet, including electric steps, belts and pushback tugs, by September 2024.

Cargo partnership: Korean Air, Vienna Airport ink MoU

Korean Air has signed an agreement to strengthen its air cargo partnership with Vienna International Airport. The partnership aims to build on growing air cargo demand between Korea and Austria, and leverage Vienna Airport as a major hub to attract greater



air cargo demand through joint marketing initiatives targeted at forwarders and customers. Korean Air will share market and industry insight with Vienna airport as part of the deal. Vienna airport serves as a gateway to eastern Europe.

Rise in volumes: Hactl sets up Cool Chain Complex



With volumes steadily increasing across all cool chain commodities, Hactl has established a Cool Chain Complex to prepare the cargo handler and Hong Kong International Airport for the market growth ahead. While this sector can be volatile, with frequent peaks at short notice, as seen during the pandemic, it is critical to have plentiful capacity to capitalise on the opportunity emerging within the industry. “This is a business for which the Hactl has been well-resourced for several years. We were setting standards for ourselves long before they were formalised by the WHO and IATA,” Wilson Kwong, Chief Executive, Hactl, said.

IAG Cargo's 2023 YoY commercial revenue drops

IAG Cargo saw a decline in year-on-year commercial revenues in 2023 against soft air cargo demand in the industry. The IAG Cargo reported commercial revenues of €1.2 billion for 2023, 28.4 per cent down compared to 2022. Cargo volumes, measured in cargo tonne kilometres, were 17.2 per cent higher than the previous year, as the group's airlines restored their operations, leading to an increase in passenger and cargo capacity. Cargo yields, measured as cargo revenue per CTks, were



impacted by the challenging market conditions. Cargo yields were 38.9 per cent lower than in 2022, "reflecting the substantial growth in global cargo capacity across the industry, together with softer market demand, reflecting the macroeconomic conditions," IAG Cargo stated.

"In 2022, cargo yields had benefited from disruption to global supply chains, and disruption to shipping, particularly in the first half of the year," IAG Cargo stated. "The increase was driven by a 23.8 per cent increase in cargo yields compared with 2019, which included the impact of transformation initiatives," it stated.

Lufthansa Cargo revenues fell in 2023 as rates cool



Lufthansa Cargo reported a year-on-year revenue drop of 36 per cent in 2023 following normalising of rates after the highs seen during the pandemic. The cargo arm of German airline Lufthansa recorded revenue of €2.98 billion in 2023, a drop of 36 per cent

from €4.6 billion in 2022. "Despite a volatile business environment, influenced by global tensions last year, Lufthansa Cargo was able to successfully maintain its position. We owe this above all to the trust of our customers, and to our employees, who mastered the year

with commitment and determination," Ashwin Bhat, Chief Executive, Lufthansa Cargo, said. However, it was able to "achieve higher average yields than before the start of the corona pandemic despite increased capacities in the market", Lufthansa Cargo stated.

Menzies Aviation wins cargo handling contract at Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport

Menzies Aviation has begun providing full ground handling services at Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport in Serbia. From March 5, the aviation services provider will provide air cargo services, alongside ramp handling and baggage, de-icing, passenger and PRM services at the airport. The contract will see Belgrade airport transfer all ground handling service contracts to Menzies Aviation, subject to partner airlines' consent. All Belgrade airport employees in ground handling activity have been offered employment agreements with Menzies as their new employer. In 2023, Menzies Aviation announced it



had signed a pact with Air Serbia for passenger and ramp services beginning in February 2024. The company has been busy investing in the first quarter of 2024.

The agreement, Menzies biggest deal in Eastern Europe to date, will see local teams manage 22,000 turns in the first year at Belgrade airport.

Silk Way West Airlines renews IATA's safety audit certification



Silk Way West Airlines, the leading cargo airline in the Caspian and Central Asian region, announces the renewal of its IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) certification. This achievement highlights the airline's ongoing commitment to safety and operational excellence. Silk Way West Airlines has passed the rigorous IOSA audit for the 6th time, demonstrating its consistent adherence to international safety requirements in air cargo transport.

Air China Cargo inks contract with WFS for cargo handling in Los Angeles

WFS, a member of the SATS Group, will handle 20,000 tonnes of cargo a year for Air China Cargo in Los Angeles under a new contract. WFS is providing ramp and warehouse handling services for Boeing 777 and 747-400 freighters at the US west coast airport and cargo handling for shipments carried onboard Air China's pax services to and from Los Angeles. Air China Cargo operates seven freighters a week on a Shenzhen-Mexico-LA-Shenzhen, Shenyang-LA-Beijing routes.



Movements

ARAMEX
UAE



Françoise Russo has been appointed as the new Chief Technology Officer, Aramex. She has a wealth of multi-sector corporate experience. Russo will be focusing on the technology strategy and roadmap for the next three to five years.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS
UAE



Stanislas Brun has been appointed as the Vice President, Cargo of Etihad Airways. He will be responsible for Etihad Cargo's commercial operations. He will oversee all facets of cargo commercial ops, including revenue management.

RSA COLD CHAIN
UAE



Brent Melvin has been appointed as the new GM of RSA Cold Chain a division of RSA Global. He brings an experience of 30 years in logistics, driving growth and optimisation across various verticals, including cold chain logistics.

GWC
Qatar



Sheikh Abdulla Bin Fahad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani has been appointed as the new MD and Board Member of Gulf Warehousing Company Q.P.S.C (GWC). This appointment reaffirms the company's pursuit for growth.

MILAHA
UAE



Fahad bin Saad Al-Qahtani has been appointed as the new Group CEO of the Board of Directors of Qatar Navigation Q.P.S.C. (Milaha). He will assume his new role after holding leadership positions in local and global firms.

JETTAINER
Germany



Thorsten Riekert has been appointed as CCO, Jettainer. He will be responsible for commercial strategy aiming at advancing the company's global growth trajectory. His appointment is an integral part of Jettainer's strategic reorganisation.

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