

Middle East's leading cargo monthly

February 2025

CARGO talk

Let's Keep Moving

**IMPACT OF GROWTH
IN AIR CARGO**
rates in ME region



**THE A TO Z OF COMPLIANCES
IN HAZMAT TRANSPORTATION**

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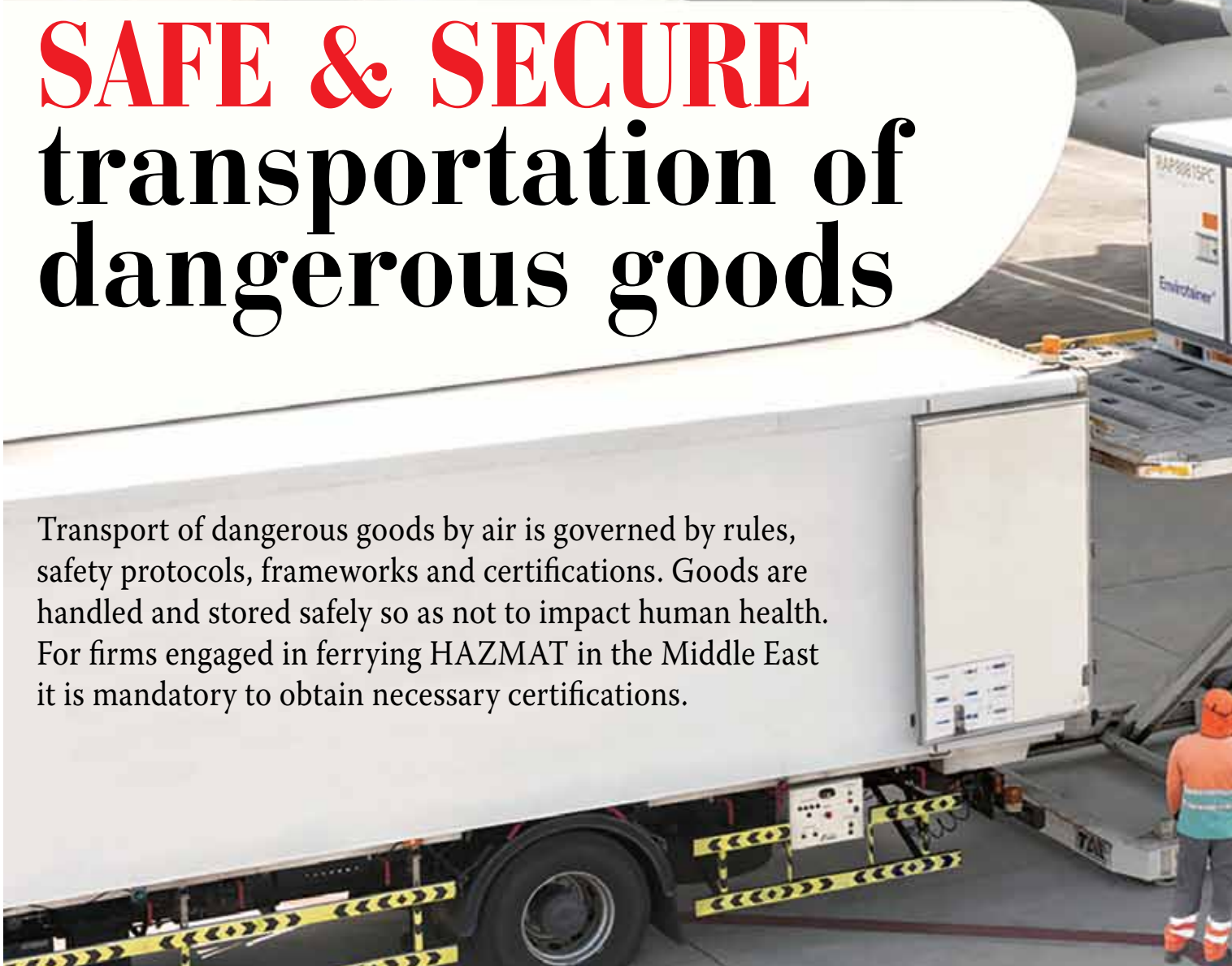
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SAFE & SECURE transportation of dangerous goods

Transport of dangerous goods by air is governed by rules, safety protocols, frameworks and certifications. Goods are handled and stored safely so as not to impact human health. For firms engaged in ferrying HAZMAT in the Middle East it is mandatory to obtain necessary certifications.





 Dr. Shehara Fernando

The Middle East is a hub for energy and petrochemical industries with a significant volume of material moving through ports, roads and air as well. The region deals with oil, gas and chemicals among others: Not only the transportation aspect but also the manufacturing plants, hence adhering to the global and regional standards has become imperative. As HAZMAT poses a risk to the health of people, environment and property, they are classified as explosives, flammable liquids, toxic substances and corrosives. The Middle East region is accessible over land, air and sea hence regulations are in place for each mode of transportation at regional and global level.

One of the most common modes of transportation between countries in the region are trucks or road transportation. There are regulations, which need to

Hazardous materials are classified as explosives, flammable liquids, toxic substances and corrosives

be adhered to carry on the business. ADR Certification is for road transport under the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, adopted by some Middle Eastern countries. Among international requirement and certifications, the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) Certification is essential for air cargo operators handling hazardous materials. The UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, establishes globally harmonised classification, labelling, and packaging standards.



Above the global standards, there are GCC standards where member states enforce dangerous goods transport laws

Training in HAZMAT handling is another imperative requirement where employees handling dangerous goods must complete certified training on packaging, labelling, and emergency response. Another important aspect is the ISO certification.

The ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management), while not specific to hazardous materials, ensures safety compliance in handling and transport operations. Professionals from the field shared the importance and the compliance procedures with **CARGO talk**.

Above the international standards, there are GCC Standards where the GCC nations enforce specific dangerous goods transport laws in

member states, harmonising safety practices. These goods also need to take Civil Defense Approvals, as many countries, including the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, require additional certifications from civil defence authorities for transport and storage.

Training is mandatory to handle dangerous goods

Transportation of dangerous goods in the Middle East follows global frameworks such as the IMDG Code, IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR), and ADR for road transport. Regulations vary by country. Key certifications include IATA Dangerous Goods



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

“Regulations vary from nation to nation. Key certifications include IATA DGR certifications for cargo handlers.”

certification for cargo handlers and International Maritime Dangerous Goods certification for maritime transport. These ensure compliance with classification, labelling, documentation, and emergency procedures.

DG regulations vary from country to country

Transportation of dangerous goods in the Middle East is governed by rules for safety, security, and environmental protection. Adherence of IMDG Code for sea freight, the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations for transport by air, and country-specific regulations such as the UAE's



Martin Bremen
Managing Director
DIMOS

“Training such as IATA DG Training for air transport or ADR Certification for road transport is a must.”

Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 is a must. Training such as IATA DG Training for air transport or ADR Certification for road transport must be imparted to those who handle them.

Compliance with rules must to avoid penalties

In the Middle East, transportation of dangerous goods is governed by global and regional regulations. The framework includes UN Recommendations on Transport of Dangerous Goods, which many nations adhere to. The In-



Ayah Al Bidh
PR and Marketing
Manager, Orbit Logistics

“Firms involved in transport of HAZMAT need to obtain a Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor certification.”

ternational Maritime Organisation and IATA have set parameters for sea and air transport, respectively. When it comes to certifications, firms involved in transport of dangerous goods need to obtain a Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor certification.

Certification to ferry HAZMAT valid for 2 yrs

Transporting dangerous goods in the Middle East follows international rules such as IATA DGR for air and IMDG Code for sea freight along with local regulations. These ensure safe handling, packaging, labeling, and documentation. Some countries may



Prem Sagar
Group GM, Al Rais Travel
& Shipping Agencies

“Some nations may need approvals for specific materials, with key documents such as MSDS and DG.”

require approvals for materials, with key documents such as MSDS and DG declarations being mandatory. Handling dangerous goods requires certifications such as IATA DGR.



Nations in ME mulling to implement ADR

IATA DGR governs the safe transport of dangerous goods by air, detailing their classification, packaging, marking, labeling, and documentation standards. Attention must be paid for lithium batteries' transport. Standalone lithium batteries are prohibited



Anbu Selvan
Head, HSE & DG
IMEA, CEVA Logistics

“Standalone lithium batteries are banned on pax aircraft. Inbuilt lithium batteries can be ferried subject to approval.”

as cargo on passenger aircraft. Electronic devices containing inbuilt lithium batteries can be ferried, subject to airline approval. While the ADR isn't adopted in the ME for transportation by road, some nations are considering its implementation.

Organisations must conduct self-assessment

Shippers are required to classify, pack, and transport dangerous goods in compliance with local and global standards, with documentation such as DGD, MSDS, and transport-specific documents. Approvals are mandatory from aviation, environment, and defence agencies. Forwarders must have certifications and licenses, with GD competency-based personnel capable of managing dangerous goods. Rules demand dedicated storage areas, safety tools, and labelling for dangerous goods handling.



Afsal K Moidunny
Assistant Manager
Operations
Orient Cargo

“Approvals from authorities are compulsory. Shippers must have certifications & licenses to ferry DG.”

UAE has specific norms to handle HAZMAT

Transporting dangerous goods involves strict regulations to ensure safety and compliance. The region follows global norms but may have additional national regulations. For instance, the UAE has requirements for the import and export of



Francois Coron
Managing Director UAE
Hellmann Worldwide
Logistics L.L.C.


“The UAE has requirements for import and export of HAZMAT, such as adhering to local safety standards etc.”

HAZMAT, including obtaining permits and adhering to local safety standards. These certifications ensure firms/individuals handling these goods know about the regulations and safety procedures. 🚚



Impact of growth in air cargo rates in Middle East region

Recent years in Middle East witnessed rise in cargo rates due to combination of global and regional factors. Main criteria impacting tariffs is region's location combining Asia, Europe and Africa, making it key logistics hub. Major players such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Riyadh lead in cargo operations and contribute towards escalating air freight costs.

 Dr. Shehara Fernando

If one looks back in time, demand surge after the pandemic was one of the key drivers behind the rise in air cargo rates. It was an unprecedented period when the global pandemic disrupted supply chains leading to a backlog of shipments. Over

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

the years as economies started their recovery the rapid demand and reliable air freight solutions soared higher than what was expected. Capacity is another key factor, which contributed to the rise of air cargo rates as there was a limited belly cargo space in passenger aircraft due to reduced passenger flights; the freighters had no option but to meet with the growing demand.

Volatility of fuel costs was another factor in terms of operational expenses that influenced freight rates. As the Middle East is the global energy hub, these fluctuations in fuel costs directly impacted in terms of the air cargo rates. The Middle East region has been thriving on their infrastructure development plans

the past few years, especially investing on logistics and airport expansion, which would enhance capacity and came in with added cost structures impacting the freight rates.

One of the main factors that is booming and will continue its growth strategy is e-commerce. The surge in online shopping, which began during the pandemic, has once again become a trend and continues to impact on rapid delivery services.

When it comes to cross-border transactions, this strains the air cargo network. While it is one of the most opportune areas, along with it come challenges for the industry. The cost factor becomes a key element in on-time deliv-

ery services impacting the rise of the tariffs. Industry experts share their take on the trends and their impact.

FACT FILE

- This recovered rapid demand and air freight solutions soared higher than what was expected
- Capacity is another key factor that contributed to the rise of air cargo rates as there was a limited belly cargo space in pax aircraft
- After pandemic, the growth in online shopping has again led to rise in e-commerce

Advanced technology gives better visibility

The rise in air cargo rates has affected the industries, which rely on fast and reliable transport of high-value goods, such as electronics, pharma, and fashion. The carriers must adhere to new government needs, which create more complexities. Etihad



Rainer Krammer
Senior Manager, Americas and Europe, Etihad Cargo

“Rise in cargo rates has hit the industries, which rely on fast and reliable transport of high-value goods.”

Cargo addresses these needs through strategic planning and innovation to ensure continued support to its clients. Consolidating shipments into larger loads optimises logistics ensures deliveries.

Fleet capacities rise due to e-commerce expansion

The air cargo industry in the Middle East remains resilient in positioning itself as a transit hub between Asia, Europe, and Africa. The rapid expansion of e-commerce spurred demand for time-sensitive and reliable transportation of goods,



Farzad Rustami
MD, Skylink Cargo Services LLC

“The ME carriers adapted to rise in their fleet capacities, utilise trade flows through alternative routes.”

where collaboration become essential for achieving organisational workflows. The ME carriers have adapted to increasing their fleet capacities, utilise trade flows through alternative routes so as to connect key hubs. 🌍

Rise in air cargo costs swells product expenses

The Middle East has seen a surge in cargo rates, impacting logistics and supply chain dynamics. This rise is due to escalating operational costs, fuel prices, and supply-demand imbalances. The impact includes increased shipping costs for businesses, higher expenses



Razmal Assen
Executive Director, India, Sri Lanka and UAE, Scanwell Logistics

“Logistics providers are adopting cargo routing optimisation & leveraging multimodal transport solutions.”

for goods, and potential delivery delays. To mitigate them, logistics providers are adopting optimisation of cargo routing, leveraging multimodal transport solutions, and investing in technology.

Retail, pharma hit as they rely on efficient air freight

The rise in air rates in the region has impacted businesses and supply chains. The primary effect is high logistics costs that can reduce profit margins and prove costly for consumers. Retail, pharma, and e-commerce have been hit as they rely on efficient air



Mohamed Jassim Al Rais
ED, Al Rais Travel and Shipping Agencies

“The primary effect is high logistics costs that can reduce profit margins and prove costly for consumers.”

freight for time-sensitive shipments. To combat them, firms must optimise supply chain ops, consolidate shipments to maximise load efficiency, and negotiate long-term contracts with carriers.



8.2% air cargo demand growth in Middle Eastern carriers

According to the latest IATA data, the Middle East carriers contributed 13.5% to the total cargo traffic market with 3.6% year-on-year increase in air cargo demand, showing steady growth. This marked the 16th consecutive month of growth, reinforcing the sector's resilience, says **Willie Walsh, Director General**.

CT Bureau

Middle Eastern carriers have continued to demonstrate resilience and growth in the global air cargo sector. As per latest report by IATA, Middle Eastern carriers experienced a 3.6 per cent year-on-year increase in air cargo demand. Global air cargo demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers, rose by 8.2 per cent compared to November 2023, marking the 16th consecutive month of growth, reinforcing the sector's resilience. Notably, international operations recorded a 9.5 per cent increase, further highlighting the global recovery in air cargo traffic.

The Middle Eastern carriers saw a 6.2 per cent decline in their contribution to the global air cargo market share compared to November 2023.



This sharper decline underscores the challenges faced in sustaining growth momentum. Despite these challenges, the Middle Eastern carriers have demonstrated resilience by maintaining a solid foothold in global air cargo operations. This performance aligns

with ongoing regional developments in infrastructure investments and expansion of hub airports, which facilitate intercontinental trade flows.

“It was a good November for air cargo with 8.2 per cent demand growth nearly dou-

bling the 4.6 per cent growth in cargo capacity. Fuel costs tracked at 22 per cent below the previous year's levels and tight market conditions supported yield growth at 7.8 per cent. All things considered we are looking to close out 2024 air cargo



The system to reduce delivery times, enhance sustainability by minimising emissions, & provide solution for goods delivery

performance on a profitable note. While this strong performance is likely to extend into this year, there are some downside risks that must be carefully watched. These include inflation, geopolitical uncertainties and trade tensions,” Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA, said.

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE:

Asia-Pacific: Asia-Pacific region led with the highest growth at 13.2 per cent, fueled by a 9.4 per cent increase in capacity. Asia-Pacific carriers contributed 53 per cent, an increase of 3.7 percentage points from November 2023.

North America: North American carriers, one of the biggest contributors to the cargo annual growth of cargo tonne-kilometers growth, led with a 13.4 per cent annual

growth in international air cargo traffic and a 6.9 per cent rise in demand with a 2.2 per cent increase in capacity.

Europe: Europe showed a 5.6 per cent increase in demand, accompanied by a 4.3 per cent rise in capacity, driven by industries such as pharmaceuticals and automobiles. Europe-North America, the third largest market, grew more moderately at 5.6 per cent in its 13th consecutive month of cargo tonne-kilometers volumes growth.

Latin America: Latin America experienced significant demand growth at 11.6 per cent, supported by a 6.4 per cent increase in capacity. Additionally, the Latin America region contributed 2.8 per cent cargo-tonne kilometres in the total cargo traffic market.

Africa: Africa reported a modest 0.7 per cent decrease in demand, the slowest among regions, despite a 0.4 per cent rise in capacity.

TRADE LANE PERFORMANCE

International routes continued to experience exceptional traffic levels, with a 9.5 per cent year-on-year increase in November. The Asia-North America trade stood out with a 13 per cent annual

Air Cargo Market in Detail					
	World Share*1 %	November 2024 (%Year-On-Year)			
		CTK %	ACTK %	CLF (%-pt) *2	CLF (level) *3
Total Market	100	8.2	4.6	1.6	49.0
Africa	2.0	-0.7	0.4	-0.5	42.5
Asia Pacific	33.3	13.2	9.4	1.7	50.0
Europe	21.4	5.6	4.3	0.7	57.6
Latin America	2.8	11.6	6.4	1.9	39.6
Middle East	13.5	3.6	-0.6	2.0	49.4
North America	26.9	6.9	2.2	1.9	43.8

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

rise in cargo demand, reflecting sustained growth in significant corridors.

e-commerce demand in regions such as the USA and Europe is contributing significantly to these volumes, particularly as ocean shipping capacity remains constrained.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Industrial production rose 2.1 per cent year-on-year in October, and international goods trade grew for the seventh consecutive month with a 1.6 per cent increase.

Despite these positive indicators, uncertainties persist with the Purchasing

Managers’ Index (PMI) for new export orders below the 50-mark thereby signalling cautious optimism.

PROJECTIONS

The performance of the global air cargo industry in November reflects a foundation for growth, supported by sustained demand in global routes and regional recovery. However, the impact of economic pressures, geopolitical developments, and evolving trade dynamics will require careful monitoring. As the air cargo industry adapts to these issues and challenges, while capitalising on sustained market, demand will be critical for maintaining profitability and operational efficiency. 🚚





Members of the Royal Family among others gather at the event at Dubai Silicon Oasis

With first drone delivery, Dubai revolutionises urban mobility

UAE achieves milestone in smart logistics with the launch of its first commercial drone delivery system. This initiative is set to drive smart logistics solutions. **His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defence of the UAE, launched drone delivery system.**

 CT Bureau

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defence of the UAE officially launched the Middle East’s first drone delivery system, making history by placing the inaugural order through the drone delivery platform at Dubai Silicon Oasis (DSO). The package was successfully delivered to the Rochester Institute of Technology-Dubai (RIT-Dubai), one of the designated landing points within DSO’s drone network.

Dubai has launched a series of programmes such as

the Dubai Programme to enable drone transportation and the Dubai Robotics and Automation Programme to initiate the next phase of smart logistics solutions to position itself at the forefront of global smart logistics by integrating

drones into its infrastructure. His Highness Sheikh Hamdan said, “The future of robotic technologies and self-driving systems for retail services, and knowledge-based economic applications, innovation, digital transformation, and the

use of AI have all become a reality in Dubai.”

“We have reached a significant milestone with operational readiness to commence drone delivery operations. Through collaboration between the public and private sectors, we aim to raise the quality of services, enhance the quality of life, and accelerate economic growth,” he added. “This is just the beginning,” Sheikh Hamdan remarked. “We continue to innovate, the possibilities for drone technology in various sectors—beyond logistics—are endless.”

PIONEERING SMART LOGISTICS

Keeta Drone, a subsidiary of Chinese technology giant,

Highlights

- Dubai launched the ME’s first drone delivery system with package delivery to RIT-Dubai
- Keeta Drone’s M-Drone Gen III, with BVLOS capability, delivers essentials with speed
- Dubai Programme merges drones with infra for global smart logistics leadership

Growth Plans

- Drone delivery to cover 33% of Dubai by 2030
- Seamless integration of more landing points across the city
- Strengthening Dubai’s role as an international leader in logistics and AI-driven technologies

Meituan, is at the project's core. The company is the first to receive a commercial license for 'Beyond Visual Line of Sight' (BVLOS) drone operations in the UAE, issued by the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA). The

The system for reducing delivery times, enhancing sustainability by minimising emissions, & provide solution for goods delivery

BVLOS license enables drones to operate beyond the direct visual range of their operators, expanding their usability in urban environments.

Keeta Drone's cutting-edge M-Drone Gen III was unveiled as the vehicle for these deliveries. Equipped with six rotors, the drones can carry loads of up to 2.3 kg and navigate complex urban routes with precision. The initial phase focuses on delivering food and medicine across DSO, with plans to expand as the system matures.

"Drone delivery will reach 33 per cent of the city by 2030, positioning the emirate as a pioneer in smart mobility. We are committed to making a vital contribution to enhancing Dubai's position as one of the best prepared cities for the future and a international hub for innovation in the aviation sector," Mohammed Abdulla



His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defence of the UAE places the inaugural order through the drone delivery platform

Lengawi, Director General, DCAA, said.

The drone delivery network, which operates across four routes within Dubai Silicon Oasis, serves significant locations, including RIT-Dubai and Dubai Digital Park. Each take-off and landing point has been integrated into the urban landscape to ensure seamless operations.

The system promises to reduce delivery times, enhances sustainability by minimising vehicular emissions, and provides a reliable and simple solution for essential goods delivery

The project reflects a collaboration between the public and private sectors, with key contributions from the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Dubai Future

Foundation, and the Roads and Transport Authority. "We are proud to launch drone delivery ops at DSO, marking a milestone in technological innovation. This aligns with Dubai's broader strategy to become the world's best place to live," Dr. Mohammed Al Zarooni, Executive Chairman,

Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority, said.

"Drone delivery will enhance Dubai's role as a hub for innovation, improving quality of life and driving future economic growth," Mohammed Abdullah Linjawi, Director General, DCAA, said. 🚀



Keeta Drone's M-Drone Gen III, unveiled on the occasion, is equipped with six rotors and can carry loads of up to 2.3 kg and navigate complex urban routes



Enhancing air cargo, aviation in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

AJEX Logistics Services and Chapman Freeborn have entered into an official partnership to enhance aviation and cargo services in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This collaboration aligns with Vision 2030, aiming to position the Kingdom as a global logistics hub.

CT Bureau

AJEX Logistics Services has partnered with Chapman Freeborn and formalised through an agreement signed in Riyadh, aims to advance aviation and cargo services across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aligning with the Kingdom's ambitious Vision 2030 objectives.

The agreement was signed by Mohammed Albayati, CEO, AJEX Logistics Services, and Gerhard Coetzee, Vice President Cargo at Chapman Freeborn IMEA. Hassan Abdelnour, Country Manager at Chapman Freeborn KSA, also present at the signing ceremony.

This partnership sets the stage for the two firms to offer a wide range of aviation services, including aircraft charter solutions for cargo and passengers, airport ground and cargo handling, and management of specialised cargo projects. Chapman Freeborn, established in 1973, brings decades of



expertise in aircraft charter services. Their global experience complements AJEX's strong regional presence, creating a synergy to enhance operational and commercial opportunities. Both the companies are committed to addressing the evolving needs of cargo and passenger operations with exceptional professionalism and efficiency.

The collaboration comes at a pivotal time for the

KSA's aviation and logistics sectors, undergoing rapid transformation as part of KSA's Vision 2030.

The Kingdom aims to leverage its strategic geographic location to become a global logistics hub, with plans to enhance air freight capacity to 4.5 million tonnes per year, increase annual passenger numbers to 330 million, expand connectivity to more than 250 destinations by the end of the decade.

"As the Kingdom continues to strengthen its position in the global logistics sector, we are excited to announce our collaboration with Chapman Freeborn," said Mohammed Albayati, Chief Executive Officer, AJEX Logistics Services. "By combining our regional strengths with Chapman Freeborn's extensive global network, we are committed to delivering enhanced aviation and cargo solutions that support the Kingdom's ambitious growth objectives."

"We are thrilled to partner with AJEX Logistics Services as we expand our presence in KSA. This collaboration aligns with our mission to provide world-class aviation services and reflects our dedication to supporting the Kingdom's Vision 2030 goals. Together, we will drive innovation and excellence in aviation and cargo operations, ensuring our clients benefit from the best possible service," Gerhard Coetzee, VP Cargo at Chapman Freeborn, said.





Abu Dhabi, Brazilian Customs launch digital trade initiative

In collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security, Abu Dhabi Customs has partnered with Brazilian Customs to launch the 'Trusted Digital Trade Corridor initiative.'

 CT Bureau

The UAE Customs delegation, led by His Excellency Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori, Director General of Abu Dhabi Customs, announced a groundbreaking partnership with Brazilian

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


Customs to launch a digital trade corridor pilot project—the first initiative of its kind in the region. The initiative, driven by the joint efforts of H.E. Rashed Al Mansoori and Ms. Claudia Regina Thomaz, the Undersecretary of Customs Administration of Brazil, highlights a shared vision of leveraging technology to facilitate trade, streamline customs processes, reduce processing time, and enhance the security and efficiency of cross-border trade.

H.E. Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori, held a meeting with the WCO Secretary General, Ian Saunders, to discuss the future of customs in the era of digital transforma-

tion, the global trends, and collaboration with different strategic stakeholders to enhance supply chain security and facilitate cross-border trade. The WCO Secretary General praised Abu Dhabi Customs for its remarkable progress in digital transformation, particularly applauding its leadership in launching the pilot for Trusted Digital Trade Corridor initiative with Brazil. extending his congratulations and full support for this initiative.

Aligned with Abu Dhabi and UAE's strategic goals and its visionary leadership, Abu Dhabi Customs remains committed to be a world-class Customs Authority, collabo-

Aligned with Abu Dhabi and UAE's strategic goals, Abu Dhabi Customs remains committed to be a world-class Customs Authority

rating with confidence alongside partners to drive sustainable economic growth and enhance Abu Dhabi's competitive edge, by facilitating secure and legitimate trade while embracing cutting-edge innovations and future-ready digital technologies. 

Abu Dhabi Customs at **WCO** conference held in Brazil

Abu Dhabi Customs participated at the 2024 World Customs Organisation Technology Conference & Exhibition in Rio Di Janeiro. The meet focused on exploring solutions to enhance trade, border security, and supply chain resilience. Over 1,200 participants from 95 countries from customs and border agencies, among others gathered at the event.





Digital plan for cargo transport to transform regional logistics

'Logisty' digital logistics platform is poised to change way freight is ferried and tracked, setting new benchmarks in efficiency and reliability. The digital platform was unveiled by TruKker in partnership with RTA. Platform's launch represents paradigm shift in logistics, promising a future of efficiency and sustainability in freight transportation.

CT Bureau

With a vision to re-define the freight across the region, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) launched 'Logisty', a groundbreaking digital logistics platform in collaboration with TruKker to offer efficient and transparent services.

'Logisty' supports Dubai Economic Agenda to enhance its position as one of three economic cities in the world

As Dubai being a logistics hub, 'Logisty' platform is designed to cater to the needs of businesses and customers by providing efficient commercial transport services. It facilitates management of logistics and commercial vehicle fleets while offering on-demand booking and tracking services.

This innovation is poised to integrate advanced technologies into the sector, enhancing user experience and operational efficiency.

"The launch of 'Logisty' platform is a testament to the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, for enhancing the global competitiveness of Dubai as a leading centre for finance, business, and economy. It also supports the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33) aimed to enhance Dubai's position as one of the top three economic cities in the world," Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman, Board of Executive Directors, RTA, said,

ALTERING FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

Logisty aims to deliver advanced solutions for freight transport, incorporating AI-powered CBM Calculator enabling users to estimate shipment volumes through photos or videos. The platform will streamline services, making them more seamless and



Gaurav Biswas, Founder, and CEO, TruKker; Abdulla Yousef Al Ali, CEO, Licensing Agency, RTA, at the signing ceremony to launch the 'Logisty'

reliable for users. "The platform's launch reflects RTA's commitment to delivering innovative, quality solutions that prioritise the needs of residents. It promotes partnerships with the private sector by collaborating with TruKker to leverage advanced technologies offered by the company in logistics services. Such efforts contribute to providing businesses and customers with

solutions that are transparent and secure," he added.

In 2023, the transport and storage sector contributed as much as AED31.4 billion to Dubai's GDP, accounting for 42.8 per cent of the total GDP. The logistics sector achieved its highest growth rate of 7.8 per cent in Q2, reflecting its robust expansion, driven by the e-commerce boom. Al Tayer highlighted, "The digital logistics platform also contributes to enhancing the operational efficiency of the logistics sector by integrating advanced technologies into its operations, activities, and services. Dubai is home to more than 10,000 commercial transport companies, with the sector recording a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 34 per cent over the past five years."

With the introduction of the digital platform, this growth is expected to accelerate further, bolstering Dubai's position as a key logistics hub in the region.



QR Cargo develops **online booking** for interline partners

It has become the first air cargo carrier to offer online bookings with instant confirmations to its interline partners. Delivered through the airline's innovative Digital Lounge portal, this new feature streamlines the booking process, allowing interline partners to manage their shipments with unprecedented ease and efficiency.



Since its inception, the Digital Lounge portal has garnered impressive success, with 6,800 registered customers and 15,000 users. Nearly 500,000 online bookings have been processed, underscoring the platform's wide acceptance and functionality. "The portal's intuitive design and user-friendly layout have received high praise, underscoring its success in meeting customer needs and driving digitalisation in the industry," Faisal Karamat, VP, Cargo Customer Experience, Qatar Airways Cargo, said.

The Digital Lounge's features, such as tracking and tracing, multiple dimension uploads per shipment, air waybill notification configurations, BUP bookings with ULD details, allotment bookings, and a personalised experience for consolidators, have set it apart as a unique and efficient tool in the cargo industry. Customers can now complete their bookings in two to three minutes, supported by a 24x7 centralised in-house technical support team that ensures smooth operations round-the-clock. 🌐

CT Bureau

Qatar Airways Cargo is setting a new standard for operational efficiency in global logistics by being the first cargo airline to offer online bookings with instant confirmations to interline partners through its innovative Digital Lounge portal.

The new feature allows interline partners to manage

their online bookings seamlessly, eliminating the need for local station staff involvement and reducing the manual exchange of booking emails. With the benefit of real-time access to booking information and updates, this is a leap forward in revolutionising the way the air cargo industry handles bookings.

"Digitalisation is the cornerstone of our strategy, and we are proud to continue setting new standards in the air cargo industry. As the first carrier to offer online bookings with instant confirmations to our interline partners, we are committed to innovation and improving the booking experience for our partners and customers. Our teams actively gather customer feedback to enhance the user experience on the Digital Lounge portal, and we have made significant progress since its launch in 2022," Mark Drusch, Chief Officer Cargo, QR Cargo, expressed.

Currently, American Airlines Cargo and Latam Cargo are utilising our feature, managing all their bookings on QR Cargo flights. Looking ahead, the carrier has ambitious plans to extend the Digital Lounge service to all interline partners soon. This will elevate the cargo industry's booking experience, setting a new standard for how air cargo carriers interact with their partners.



2025 KEY INDICATORS

Over 6,800
REGISTERED CUSTOMERS ON
PORTAL


15,000
USERS OF DIGITAL LOUNGE
PORTAL

Nearly 500,000
ONLINE BOOKINGS PROCESSED



RAKEZ joins DHL Express to **back SMEs** with logistics solutions

Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) collaborated with DHL Express, offering tailored logistical solutions, exclusive benefits, and seamless global connectivity, setting the stage for SMEs to scale new heights in operational efficiency and international expansion, says **Ramy Jallad, Group CEO, RAKEZ**.

 CT Bureau

Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) has signed an agreement with DHL Express to deliver significant benefits to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) operating within RAKEZ, further solidifying its reputation as a premier hub for business growth.

The MoU outlines a suite of tailored logistics services for RAKEZ clients, enabling them to credit account access,

special incentives such as a three-month onboarding benefit, and dedicated support personnel to ensure seamless sales and after-sales service. "Our collaboration with DHL Express is a key addition to the suite of comprehensive business support we provide to the SMEs in our community. Its world-class logistical solutions will help boost their operational efficiencies, contributing to their upscaling and expansion plans with ease. It is a part of our ongoing efforts to empower businesses in

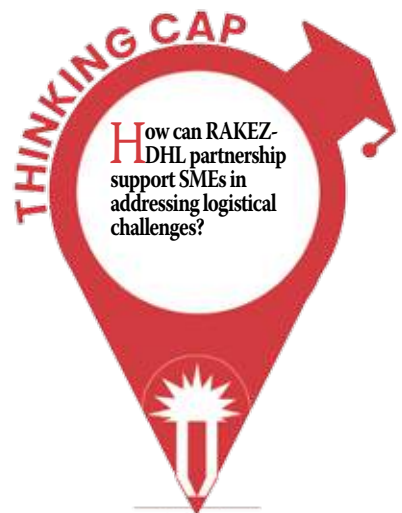
eQuote will be rolled out globally and incorporate products such as sensitive shipments

RAKEZ by providing seamless access to global markets and enhancing their supply chain management," Ramy Jallad, Group CEO, RAKEZ, said.

"SMEs are central to our focus, and we are committed to empowering them with the tools and solutions they need to thrive. This partnership with RAKEZ allows us to offer world-class logistics solutions, helping SMEs optimise operations and scale efficiently. We are keen to support their growth and long-term success," Mahmoud Haj Hussein, Managing Director, UAE,

DHL Express, said, echoing similar sentiments.

The partnership includes marketing initiatives such as webinars, media activities, and social media campaigns to raise awareness about the enhanced services available to RAKEZ clients. These efforts aim to streamline the business operations of SMEs, enabling them to scale and succeed in the global market.



UAE affirms trade partnerships through **CEPA expansion** in 2025

UAE is expanding its global trade partnerships with its ambitious CEPA programme. In an interview with **CARGO TALK**, **Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, UAE**, reiterated the country will broaden its CEPA network in this year, targeting new strategic partners to amplify mutual trade benefits.

CT Bureau

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the UAE, has reaffirmed the country's commitment to expanding its network of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) in this year. This initiative seeks to maximise benefits for the UAE and its global trade partners by fostering sustainable development, enhancing investment opportunities, and strengthening rules-based international trade.

"These agreements reflect the UAE's vision, which recognises the vital role of free trade based on clear rules in driving sustainable economic growth and inclusive development," Dr. Al Zeyoudi highlighted.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL TRADE

"Since its launch in September 2021, the UAE has signed 24 CEPAs with various countries and international blocs,

In the first half of 2024, trade volumes surpassed nearly AED 2 trillion, marking 11.2% growth

covering around 2.5 billion people by early December last year. The CEPAs have already had a positive effect on various areas of the UAE's foreign trade, particularly logistics, technology, non-oil trade,

re-export services, clean and renewable energy and green industries, among others," the minister added.

In the first half of last year, trade volumes surpassed AED1.395 trillion, marking a 11.2 per cent growth as compared to the same period in the previous year. Growth rates over previous years have been equally impressive, with increases of 28.8 per cent,

54.7 per cent, and 66 per cent against 2022, 2021, and 2019, respectively.

Attributing this success to the strategic approach to free trade, the UAE minister said, "The agreements' diversity and the country's ability to form partnerships across five continents to increase opportunities for various sectors and open new markets." The UAE's CEPA framework aligns



Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
Minister of State for Foreign Trade, UAE

“ These pacts reflect UAE’s vision perceiving free trade based on sustainable and economic growth.”

with its long-term vision of economic diversification and sustainable development. This initiative complements "Projects of the 50" national strategy to propel the country into a new era of growth and innovation, he said. 🇦🇪



2025 KEY INDICATORS

Sept 2021
Year of CEPA launch

24
Total CEPAs signed

AED 1.395 trillion
Trade volume in H1 2024

Approx 2.5 billion
Population coverage in 2024



Etihad Cargo expands footprint to Ezhou Huahu airport

Etihad Cargo operated 329 flights between Ezhou Huahu airport and Zayed International Airport, reinforcing its position as a trusted partner for customers across diverse industries. Facilitating 18,700 tonnes of export cargo, this partnership underscores Etihad's commitment to connecting Asia, Europe, and beyond with seamless efficiency.

 CT Bureau

Etihad Cargo achieved a milestone by operating 329 flights between Ezhou Huahu Airport, Asia's first dedicated freighter hub, and Zayed International Airport. These operations have facilitated the movement of over 18,700 tonnes of export cargo and more than 400 tonnes of imports since the inaugural flight on August 18, 2023, connecting key markets across Asia, Europe, and beyond. Etihad Cargo's operations in Ezhou are a key component of the carrier's extensive network in Greater China, which will grow to 23 weekly freighters and 25 weekly passenger flights in 2025.

"As the first international carrier to operate from Ezhou, Etihad Cargo is proud to have played a pivotal role in demonstrating the airport's superior capabilities and strategic importance within just one year of operations. Etihad Cargo's customers have expressed high satisfaction with the reliability and efficiency of



Li Wei
Deputy General Manager
Ezhou Huahu International Airport

“A domestic hub-and-spoke route network is established, while global logistics channels are taking shape.”

the service, validating the carrier's decision to partner with Ezhou and recognising its potential as a global cargo hub," Stanislas Brun, Vice President Cargo at Etihad Cargo, said.

Ezhou Huahu International Airport's strategic location in central China and advanced infrastructure have made it a critical logistics hub. The airport, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and recently certified by IATA CEIV Pharma, is well-suited to handle specialised cargo such as pharma. These capabilities have bolstered the carrier's service offering, ensuring seamless and efficient transportation of goods to global markets.

"Ezhou Huahu International Airport, which is in central China, boasts a geographical advantage and solid foundational conditions. A domestic hub-and-spoke route network is already established, while international logistics channels are rapidly taking shape. The airport regards Etihad Cargo as a key strategic partner and supports the launch of more cargo routes at the airport, achieving milestones in the future," Li Wei, Deputy General Manager of Ezhou Huahu International Airport, said.

The airport located in central China and advanced infra will make Ezhou airport a critical logistics hub

In 2024, Ezhou Huahu Airport's cargo and mail throughput is projected to rank fifth nationwide, with 36 international cargo routes operational. The collaborative efforts of Etihad Cargo and local stakeholders have created value for exporters and importers, especially those requiring fast and reliable services.

Since Etihad Cargo expands its presence in Greater China, with plans to increase to 23 weekly cargo flights and 26 pax flights by 2025, the partnership with Ezhou Huahu airport anticipates to open up opportunities in the inter-nationalsupply chain. 



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Role model for future greener logistics, manufacturing sectors

Shaping greener, smarter future for logistics and manufacturing sectors, while minimising environmental impact, this UAE-based firm's collaborations with global leaders and commitment to circular economy principles are setting standards for eco-conscious industrial growth by leveraging renewable energy and advanced green technologies.

CT Bureau

The industrial nucleus of NEOM, Oxagon, the industrial nucleus of NEOM, is redefining the future of logistics and manufacturing by seamlessly integrating sustainability and technological innovation.

Spanning 50 square kilometres, Oxagon has emerged as one of the world's largest floating industrial complexes and to achieve cent per cent renewable energy use by 2030.

"The company exemplifies essence of Saudi Vision 2030 by fostering a diversified economy, while ensuring minimal environmental impact," Paolo Carlomagno, Partner, Arthur D. Little Middle East, said.

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS

Oxagon became a global role model for eco-conscious industrial practices by harnessing renewable energy and reducing CO₂ footprint. "Its logistics operations integrate renewable energy sources, which have reduced carbon emissions by an estimated 25 per cent compared to traditional



models. Additionally, the manufacturing ecosystem embraces circular economy principles, focusing on resource efficiency and waste minimisation. By 2026, the company's waste-to-resource initiatives are projected to recycle 90 per cent of industrial waste generated within the facility," he added.

Advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, robotics, green building technologies, and smart water man-

agement, among others have been deployed to minimise its environmental footprint in logistics and manufacturing operations. "Oxagon represents the future of industrial development," Carlomagno said. Its achievements are a clarion call for industries worldwide to prioritise sustainability and innovation.

Oxagon has partnerships with giants such as Siemens and Schneider Electric for integration of sustainable prac-



Paolo Carlomagno
Partner, Middle East
Arthur D. Little

“ Its logistics ops integrate renewable energy sources, reducing emissions by an estimated 25 per cent.”

tices. These collaborations have led to implementation of solutions such as energy-efficient manufacturing systems and low carbon supply chain logistics. By 2030, KSA's vision of operating on renewable energy is set to become a reality and Oxagon shows visionary leadership potential.



Sustainable Impact

- The company is on the right track to achieve 100% renewable energy use by 2030, integrating solar and wind power into its operations in the logistics sector
- The KSA-based firm embraces a circular economy approach, emphasising resource efficiency and waste minimisation

Collaborative Innovation

- Collaborations with international corporations such as Siemens and Schneider Electric drive the adoption of sustainable practices
- The company employs cutting-edge technologies such as AI and smart water management systems to enhance efficiency and reduce its environmental footprint

FedEx Freight separated into public traded company

FedEx Corporation has announced plans to separate FedEx Freight into an independent, publicly traded company within 18 months. This move, with an aim to enhance operational focus, unlock value and drive growth for both entities. The separation is projected to be executed within 18 months in a tax-efficient manner for FedEx stockholders.

CT Bureau

FedEx Corp., has announced plans to separate FedEx Freight into an independent publicly traded company. The separation is projected to be executed within 18 months in a tax-efficient manner for FedEx stockholders. This measure will enable both companies to sharpen their operational focus, create value for stockholders and address customer needs.

“This is the right time to pursue a separation as we respond to the dynamics of the LTL market. This announcement is a testament to the strength of the business our team has built and to our dedication to doing what is best for our customers, our team members, and our stockholders. Through this process, we will unlock value for our Freight business and position FedEx to create even greater value for stockholders,” Raj Subramaniam, President and CEO, FedEx, said.

FedEx Freight, a leader in the less-than-truckload (LTL)



market, generated US\$ 9.4 billion in revenue in FY2024-25, has consistently achieved remarkable operational efficiency, with operating profits increasing by 25 per cent annually over the past five years. By separating it, FedEx Freight aims to capitalise on its leadership and enhance its agility and operational excellence.

“FedEx Freight, a leader in LTL market, generated US\$ 9.4 bn in revenue in 2024-25, has operational efficiency.”

“Over the past 50 years, FedEx has built an unmatched global platform that has produced significant value for our stockholders and opportunities for our team members. Building upon FedEx’s powerful foundation, and following a careful assessment of our portfolio, the Board is confident a separation of FedEx Freight will drive continued growth and value creation,” R. Brad Martin, Vice Chairman, Board and Chair, Au-

dit and Finance Committee, said. The separation process will commence immediately, with Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC serving as advisor and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP providing legal counsel.

Through this separation, FedEx Corp., and FedEx Freight are setting the stage for a future of efficiency, and shareholder value. Both the companies will continue to deliver exceptional service and reliability that customers

have come to expect from the FedEx brand.

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Both the companies will enjoy autonomy and accountability, enabling them to pursue growth opportunities tailored to their respective markets
- Separate stock listings will create unique value propositions, appealing to distinct investor bases.
- Each firm will have financial flexibility to invest in growth initiatives and return capital to shareholders.
- Pacts between the two entities will preserve the benefits of collaboration in operations, technology, and customer service.
- FedEx brand will continue to be a hallmark of entities



PIF & Bpifrance join hands to bolster **Vision 2030** goals

KSA and France-based firms have signed a US\$ 10 billion pact to offer financing solutions and foster partnerships to build opportunities in key sectors such as logistics, energy, infrastructure, and technology. This five-year agreement aligns with Saudi Vision 2030, focusing on economic diversification and reduced reliance on oil.

 CT Bureau

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) and Bpifrance Assurance Export have signed an agreement valued at US\$ 10 billion to provide financing solutions to its portfolio of companies.

It is a visionary collaboration between two nations, reflecting their commitment to economic growth and innovation

This five-year agreement is a milestone aimed at enhancing bilateral collaboration, while accelerating the Kingdom's Vision 2030 initiatives. It also serves as a gateway to foster-



Senior officials of KSA-based Public Investment Fund and France-based Bpifrance Assurance Export signing the MoU

ing commercial partnerships between KSA and French firms. "This MoU is another milestone in PIF's strategy to strengthen its range of rela-

tionships with leading international financial institutions and export credit agencies. It will unlock new opportunities for French and Saudi companies to build collaborations and exchange knowledge and experience, resulting in mutually beneficial outcomes," Raees AlSaud, Head, Financial Institutions and Investor Relations, PIF, said.

FRANCO-SAUDI RELATIONS

The pact sets the stage for an exchange of expertise between the two nations. "The collaboration supports PIF's mission is to be a catalyst, attracting global partners and leveraging solutions to shape the future of the KSA economy," AlSaud remarked. "This agreement will benefit both countries by strengthening Franco-Saudi commercial relationships, increasing trade

The agreement is a milestone aimed at enhancing bilateral collaboration, while accelerating KSA's Vision 2030 initiatives

flows, and developing opportunities for French companies to forge new partnerships, as well as contributing to the development of Saudi Vision 2030. It is a visionary collaboration between two nations, reflecting their shared commitment to economic growth and innovation," Denis Le Fers, General Director, Bpifrance Assurance Export, emphasised. 

Collaboration highlights

- PIF and Bpifrance Assurance Export have signed a five-year agreement valued at up to US\$10 billion, focusing on financing solutions and bilateral cooperation
- The agreement directly supports Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 by fostering economic diversification and reducing dependence on oil through investments
- The MoU creates pathways for French and Saudi companies to collaborate on projects, enhancing trade flows and facilitating knowledge exchange between the two nations

Transformation goals

- PIF has launched 99 companies, invested in companies and now plans to diversify the investments into major sectors in the country
- The partnership with Bpifrance allows PIF to access financing support and innovative solutions, accelerating its portfolio expansion and Saudi Vision 2030 initiatives
- By attracting international capital and fostering strategic alliances, PIF is positioning the KSA as a global investment hub, ensuring long-term economic sustainability

DB Schenker launches new **air route** to fortify Sino-Europe ties

DB Schenker has launched new Ezhou-Frankfurt air cargo route to strengthen Sino-Europe trade links via the Middle East. Operated by Etihad Cargo, this route leverages Ezhou Huahu International Airport's location and advanced infrastructure, enabling for diverse goods, while fostering economic growth and global supply chain connectivity.

 CT Bureau

DB Schenker commissioned Ezhou-Frankfurt air cargo route establishing another significant air logistics corridor between Central China and Europe. The inaugural flight, a Boeing 777 freighter operated by Etihad Cargo, took off on 7 January, from Ezhou Huahu International Airport, enhancing Sino-Europe trade links.

The new cargo route, with a stopover in Abu Dhabi, underscores Ezhou's importance as an aviation hub. Operating every Tuesday, the service caters to a diverse range of goods, including e-commerce, electronics, automotive parts, and industrial goods, with an annual capacity of 5,200 tonnes. By leveraging Etihad Cargo's extensive network and expertise, the partnership optimises supply chains between Central China, the Middle East, and Europe. "The launch

of the Ezhou-Frankfurt route is a significant measure for DB Schenker to deepen its layout in the Chinese market. Ezhou Huahu International Airport boasts advanced infrastructure and efficient operational systems and serves as a strategic node in connecting international industrial and supply chains. We are optimistic about its development potential and have chosen it as our key air freight hub in Central China, enabling us to provide efficient and reliable professional logistics and transportation solutions to our customers," Ramon He, SVP, and Head of Air Freight of DB Schenker Greater China, said.

Ezhou Huahu International Airport, Asia's first dedicated cargo hub, has emerged as a logistics node since its inauguration in July 2022. With a multimodal transportation network of railways, highways, and deep-water ports, its location ensures connectiv-



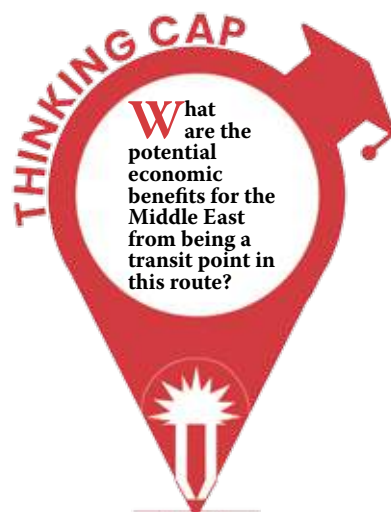
Stanislas Brun
Vice President, Cargo
Etihad Cargo

“The partnership enables entities to optimise supply chains, linking key markets in Central China.”

ity to major economic regions such as River Yangtze delta and Pearl River Delta. The

new route bolsters Sino-Europe trade and strengthens Middle East links and underscores the region's role in advancing global logistics and supply chains. "Etihad Cargo works closely with DB Schenker to address its capacity needs, ensuring seamless operation of Ezhou-Frankfurt route. By leveraging Ezhou Huahu International Airport's location and Etihad Cargo's network and operational expertise, we provide the reliability for successful global logistics. This partnership enables businesses to optimise supply chains, connecting key markets in Central China and Europe with efficiency and ease," Stanislas Brun, VP, Cargo, Etihad Cargo, said.

"The organisation's decision to set up operations at Ezhou airport represents an endorsement of Ezhou's business environment and development prospects. We will continue to optimise business environment and support development of logistics enterprises such as DB Schenker in Ezhou," Shengze Wang, Member, Party Leadership Group, Ezhou Municipal People's Government, said. 





KSA develops 18 logistics zones, invests SR10 bn on infrastructure

The Kingdom is making rapid strides in global logistics ecosystem by developing 18 new logistics zones backed by investments exceeding SR10 billion (US\$2.66 billion) so as to triple the logistics zones by 2030. By expanding its network, the Kingdom continues to align with ambitious economic goals of Saudi Vision 2030.

 CT Bureau

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) is actively transforming its logistics landscape by developing 18 new logistics zones with a total investment exceeding SR10 billion (US\$ 2.66 billion). During the opening ceremony of the 6th Supply Chain Conference in Riyadh, Saleh Al-Jasser, Minister of Transport and Logistics, KSA, announced that the Kingdom plans to increase its logistics zones from 22 to 59 by 2030. This is a significant leap forward

in realising the Kingdom's goals of Vision 2030, which aim to diversify the economy and elevate the KSA's standing as a leading logistics hub.

"The Kingdom has strengthened its logistical capabilities to support the national economy. This progress has attracted leading global companies to invest in the logistics sector. Both local and global private sectors have committed to establishing several logistics zones, with contracts signed to create 18 logistics zones in ports, totaling investments

exceeding SR10 billion," Saleh Al-Jasser said.

This infrastructure expansion is making an impact, as KSA has seen an improvement in its global standing. According to the UNCTAD report for 2024, the Kingdom gained an additional 231 points in the Liner Shipping Connectivity Index and added 30 new maritime shipping lines. This achievement reflects the Kingdom's growing influence on international trade.

"KSA has played an active role in enhancing the efficiency

of global supply chains and establishing the foundations necessary to ensure the smooth flow of goods and commodities

Both local and global pvt sectors committed to setting up logistics zones, with contracts signed to create 18 zones in ports



Saleh Al-Jasser
Minister of Transport and Logistics
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

“KSA will enhance its logistical capabilities to facilitate exports and support supply chains.”

across the region,” Al-Jasser emphasised. At the core of this transformation is the Kingdom’s multi-modal transport network. “The focus will remain on bolstering maritime shipping routes, expanding air freight operations, increasing rail freight capacities, and activating logistics centers to support sustainable development, further cementing the Kingdom’s role as a global logistics hub and a vital link in international supply chains,” he added.

The Kingdom’s efforts to strengthen its re-export activities have been notable.



In 2024, re-exports reached SR61 billion, marking a 23 per cent growth from the previous year. This achievement underscores KSA’s capability to efficiently manage complex supply chains and foster global trade.

“KSA will continue to enhance its logistical capabilities to facilitate exports, support supply chains, and improve its performance in global logistics indicators,” Al-Jasser added. This logistical development also aligns with its long-term economic goals. “We consider logistics a fundamental pillar for achieving the sustainability and in-

Increasing logistics zones from 22 to 59 by 2030 is a leap forward in realising the Kingdom’s goals of Vision 2030

tegration we aspire to, in line with the National Transport and Logistics Strategy and the Kingdom’s Vision 2030. This will not only create jobs for Saudis and make it more

efficient for Saudi companies to operate but will also enable various sectors across KSA,” Al-Jasser noted.

The Kingdom is also focusing on new rail projects such as the Northern Train Line, which is integral to connecting mining regions to key ports. The expansion of this line, with investments exceeding SR5 billion, would enhance the logistics sector and improve connectivity for exports and trade. “The Northern Train Line is likely the largest rail project in the Kingdom. It has been established as a foundation to enable the mining sector. Therefore, all infrastructure development plans are interconnected with the inputs from various sectors,” he said, during the conference.



2025 KEY INDICATORS

- 18**
New logistics zones
- SR10 billion**
Total investment
- 59**
Target zones by 2030
- SR61 billion**
Total re-exports

Logistics varsity to train aspiring leaders in Abu Dhabi

Inaugural ceremony of Pharma Logistics Winter University will take place from 3 to 7 February in Abu Dhabi. The varsity offers a programme for aspiring pharma logistics professionals. Co-founded by industry leaders and hosted by Khalifa University, this programme bridges academic learning with practical insights.

CT Bureau

The inaugural ceremony of Pharma Logistics Winter University programme is set to take place from 3 to 7 February in Abu Dhabi. The programme, designed for regional and global students, management trainees, and junior professionals, offers a platform in order to bridge academic learning with the logistics industry.

“The inaugural of the university reinforces Abu Dhabi’s dedication to driving innovation and nurturing future leaders in pharma logistics. As the healthcare sector regulator, we support initiatives that strengthen Abu Dhabi’s position as a global leader in healthcare and life sciences. This programme aligns with our vision of fostering a resilient and forward-thinking health ecosystem by equipping professionals with tools to address challenges such as cold chain logistics,” His Excellency Dr. Rashed Alsuwaidi, Acting Director General, Healthcare Regulatory, DoH, Abu Dhabi, said.

The university’s programme is co-founded by Etihad Cargo, Pharma.Aero, the Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, the University of Antwerp, and hosted by Khalifa University of Science and Technology.

“This university is a formal course worth three lecture credits and is addressed to Masters’ and Bachelors’ students and management trainees. This course underlines the relationship between Belgium and Abu Dhabi and their value as powerhouses of pharma knowledge worldwide. We are also proud as the University of Antwerp that this course is not a one-time event: It will be organised yearly in Abu Dhabi,” Professor Dr Roel Gevaers, Professor, University of Antwerp and Chair, Pharma Logistics Winter University, said. The participants will earn three European Credit Transfers and a micro-credential certificate upon completion of the course

Participants will also gain insights into industry trends, cold chain management, and



H.E. Dr. Rashed Alsuwaidi
Acting Director General, Healthcare Regulatory, DoH, Abu Dhabi



Stanislas Brun
Vice President
Cargo, Etihad Cargo

“The inaugural ceremony reinforces the city’s dedication to nurture future leaders in pharma logistics.”

risk mitigation, while exploring real-world logistics challenges through workshops, case studies, and field visits. “Etihad Cargo is proud to co-found this programme, which reflects the carrier’s dedication to fostering innovation and talent in pharmaceutical logistics. Through collaboration with industry partners, it aims to support Abu Dhabi’s development as a global hub for healthcare and life sciences and ensure the right talent is in place for the future,” Stanislas Brun, Vice President, Cargo at Etihad Cargo, said.

“This initiative unites students, PGs and young professionals in a programme designed to identify emerging talent and foster long-term job retention across the industry. By emphasising cross-sector collaboration and

“The industry aims to support Abu Dhabi’s development as a hub for healthcare and life sciences.”

internal multidisciplinary synergy, this move sets a standard for development. Through the support of our members such as Etihad Cargo and by advocating for the industry’s evolving needs, Pharma.Aero reaffirms its commitment to innovation, collaboration, and talent development,” Frank Van Gelder, Secretary General, Pharma.Aero, said.

“We collaborate with partners in Europe and the UAE to host the varsity. It is in line with the UAE’s vision to create a healthcare ecosystem and develop human capital that will be crucial to the country in this field,” Prof. Ernesto Damiani, Dean, College, Computing and Mathematical Sciences, and Director, Center for Cyber-Physical Systems (C2PS), Khalifa University, said.



ZATCA announces incentives for exporters, logistics providers

KSA's AEOP, led by ZATCA in partnership with 14 government entities, streamlines trade processes to strengthen logistics sector. By offering administrative and financial benefits, the programme plans to improve competitiveness, facilitate global market access and strengthen supply chain efficiency, supporting Vision 2030 goals.

CT Bureau

Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority (ZATCA) has announced new developments to the Saudi Authorised Economic Operator Programme in collaboration with 14 government entities. This initiative aims to strengthen the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's logistics sector, streamline trade operations, and enhance competitiveness of businesses operating in global markets.

Since its launch in 2018, the programme has enrolled 550 commercial establishments. It is part of a global initiative recognised in 80 countries, adhering to the World Customs Or-



Frank Van Gelder
Secretary General
Pharma.Aero

ganisation's International Trade Security and Facilitation Standards Framework, supporting mutual agreements, and fostering international cooperation and trade facilitation.

"ZATCA and its partners offer administrative, procedural, and financial benefits across three categories for importers and exporters. A fourth category targets lo-

“A fourth category targets logistics service providers, including customs brokers and agents.”

gistics service providers, including customs brokers and agents. These benefits are

designed to improve supply chain efficiency, simplify procedures, and ensure smooth, flexible business operations. ZATCA's programme stresses on inter-agency cooperation, involving prominent government bodies such as the Ministries of Commerce, Energy, and Transport and Logistics, alongside the Saudi Standards, Metrology, Quality Organisation, and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority," Frank Van Gelder, Secretary General, Pharma.Aero, said.

Aligned with Vision 2030 goals, the programme prioritises innovation in the sector. Integrating standards facilitates access to global markets and fortifies security of global supply chains. Its benefits, combined with coordination among government agencies, empowers businesses to navigate trade efficiently. Businesses, including importers, exporters and customs brokers, can explore the benefits of the programme and enrollment criteria through its website. 🌐



Emirates SkyCargo launches freighter, main deck capacity surge

In order to meet surging demand from Denmark and Scandinavia, the carrier has introduced a weekly freighter service to Copenhagen Airport. This apart, the cargo airline signs a multi-year lease agreement with the Compass Group to accommodate increasing cargo demand.

CT Bureau

Emirates SkyCargo has launched a dedicated weekly freighter service to Copenhagen Airport, boosting cargo capacity to meet rising demand in Denmark and Scandinavia.

With 85 tonnes per flight, the service supports pharmaceutical exports, perishables, and general cargo, enhancing Copenhagen's important role as a Northern European logistics hub for the international markets

The expanded capacity also benefits neighbouring countries, including Norway and Sweden, reinforcing Emirates SkyCargo's role as a regional logistics powerhouse. Effective 1 January 2025, the new freighter service, EK9746, will arrive at Copenhagen Airport on Wednesdays at 12:35 am and depart for Dubai World Central at 3:05 pm.

DEMAND FROM DENMARK

In recent years, Denmark has emerged as a significant market for the Emirates SkyCargo, with a remarkable growth of more than 20 per cent in cargo volumes recorded in the last financial year.

This increase has been fueled primarily by the booming pharma sector, a key driver of the Danish economy.

"Demand across Scandinavia is strong, with growth in Copenhagen, and we expect this to continue into the next fiscal and beyond. Bolstering our operations to Copenhagen with a dedicated freighter ensures we can serve the current demand and support our customers in reaching several markets across the globe," Mette Jensen, Cargo Manager, Scandinavia, Emirates SkyCargo, said.

Denmark has emerged as a vital market for the carrier with a growth of 20% in cargo volumes recorded in the last fiscal year

PHARMACEUTICAL LOGISTICS HUB

Copenhagen is fast becoming a critical hub for pharmaceutical logistics in Northern Europe. Its well-established life sciences production industry, coupled with resilient cold chain infrastructure, has positioned the city as a leader in exporting temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical products, the Cargo Manager for Scandinavia said. With its fit-for-purpose pharmaceutical product portfolio and

an extensive global network, Emirates SkyCargo is well-equipped to capitalise on this growth. The increased capacity will enable more efficient movement of pharmaceuticals from Denmark to key international markets.

MULTI VERTICAL SOLUTIONS

While pharmaceutical shipments represent a significant portion of the cargo demand, Emirates SkyCargo will address a broad range of logistics needs. Its multi vertical product portfolio includes tailored solutions for transporting general cargo, perishables, and other temperature-sensitive goods.

This flexibility is vital for Denmark's exports, which include fresh seafood and other perishables. Emirates SkyCargo ensures these products reach their global destinations swiftly, efficiently, and reliably. The weekly freighter service



will support this capability, connecting Danish exporters to a global network.

INCREASES CAPACITY

Meanwhile, Emirates SkyCargo has seen growth in demand for its specialist product portfolio, global network, and extensive all-widebody fleet in 2024. To address this rise, the airline is investing in its cargo capabilities and setting the stage for sustained growth in this year.

The airline has wet leased two additional Boeing 747Fs, which will increase critical main deck cargo capacity by 15 per cent as compared to January last year.

This multi-year lease agreement, signed with the Compass Group, provides immediate capacity to accommodate surging customer demand. The partnership also paves the way for potential future collaboration

The airline has wet leased two additional Boeing 747Fs, which will increase critical main deck cargo capacity by as much as 15%



Badr Abbas
Divisional Senior Vice President
Emirates SkyCargo

as both entities explore expansion opportunities.

“Throughout last year, we invested in new and leased freighter aircraft to address the evolving supply chain and air cargo demands around the world to ensure we had a stable supply of capacity to best serve our global customers. This has been accorded top priority for the Emirates SkyCargo, as we set our sights on the next era of growth,” Badr Abbas, Divisional Senior VP, Emirates SkyCargo, said.

Last year, the airline introduced two new Boeing 777 freighters, which have been pivotal in addressing the rising e-commerce demands from the Asian markets.

These aircraft have enabled the airline to expand its freighter network to 38 destinations, including the launch of weekly freighter services

“ We expect demand will boom, reflecting Dubai’s prominence as an international logistics hub.”

to Copenhagen, Denmark. Currently, the Emirates SkyCargo’s active fleet comprises 10 Boeing 777Fs and six wet-leased Boeing 747s, totaling 16 aircraft.

“We further anticipate that air freight demand will continue to boom, reflecting prominence of Dubai as a international logistics hub. Enhancing our air cargo capabilities is essential to support Dubai’s Economic Agenda, enabling us to reach new destinations, bolster our current operations and elevate our specialist product portfolio,” the Divisional Senior Vice President added.

The Emirates SkyCargo has placed an order for 13 additional Boeing 777Fs, with the deliveries slated for this year and the next year.

This substantial order underscores the carrier’s commitment to future-proofing its operations. The airline is also exploring advanced fleet options such as the

Boeing 777-8F and Airbus A350-1000F, signalling a focus on innovation and efficiency in its cargo operations.

Emirates SkyCargo benefits from the extensive pax network of Emirates, leveraging widebody aircraft and multi-frequency schedules to enhance cargo connectivity.

Increased passenger flights to different destinations such as Madagascar, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Australia would bolster the freight capacity of the airline.

The recent introduction of the Airbus A350 into the Emirates SkyCargo’s fleet, offering a 12-tonne bellyhold cargo capacity per flight, marks an enhancement to its air cargo operations in a bid to facilitate swift, reliable, and efficient global goods movement. 🇸🇦

**2025
KEY INDICATORS**

- Active fleet**
16 aircraft (10 B777Fs, 6 B747s)
- Capacity increase**
15% capacity from 2024
- Network growth**
38 destinations
- New aircraft**
12 tonne bellyhold in A350



GFH acquires Manrre REIT to speed up logistics growth

Asset management arm of the Kingdom of Bahrain’s GFH Financial Group has acquired Dubai-based Manrre REIT for around US\$ 75.5 million. The deal is likely to strengthen GFH Partner’s logistics portfolio, positioning it for significant growth across the GCC and global markets.

CT Bureau

GFH Partners acquired Manrre REIT, a logistics and industrial assets fund, marking a significant step in its global expansion strategy. The acquisition includes Manrre REIT’s AED 500 million portfolio of 26 diversified industrial and logistics properties, located in the UAE.

“Our investment in Manrre is an extension of GFH

Partners’ strategy, centered on collaboration with leading specialist asset managers operating in attractive segments of the global real estate market,” Nael Mustafa, CEO, GFH Partners, commenting on the acquisition worth about US\$ 75.5 million.

“Already a major investor in logistics and industrial assets in the USA, UK, and GCC member states, we are well positioned to leverage our experience to help accelerate Manrre REIT’s growth and build upon its unique market position. With a new structure and strengthened foundations, we look forward to capturing opportunities from macroeconomic drivers contributing to the growth of the logistics and industrial sectors across key markets in the GCC region,” he added.

This acquisition builds on GFH Partners’ track record in the logistics and industrial sectors. In 2023, the firm acquired US\$ 150 million portfolio of logistics assets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and



Kunal Lahori
Director
Manrre REIT Logistics Fund



Nael Mustafa
CEO
GFH Partners

“With GFH Partners on board, we can expand our specialist asset class and elevate our market base.”

“We are well positioned to leverage our experience to help accelerate Manrre REIT’s growth.”

the UAE, featuring cold storage, light industrial facilities, and warehouses. In July, GFH Partners closed a US\$ 300 million logistics and industrial fund in the USA, encompass-

ing 25 properties across seven locations. These investments have collectively funneled more than US\$ 4 billion into the logistics real estate sector, with prominent tenants such as Amazon, FedEx, and DHL.

“This investment marks a pivotal moment for Manrre REIT. We have consistently aimed to redefine the logistics and industrial real estate market in the UAE and beyond. With GFH Partners on board, we are well-positioned to expand our specialist asset class and elevate our market presence,” Kunal Lahori, Director, Manrre REIT Logistics Fund, said. The Manrre REIT’s integration into the GFH Partners’ portfolio is set to accelerate its growth through broadened investor bases and new acquisitions.



Egypt unveils **revamped** ICAO Middle East Regional Office

International Civil Aviation Organisations' (ICAO) Middle East office has played significant role in advancing regional aviation cooperation ever since it was established. This facility will help us better serve the growing needs of aviation sector in the region, says **Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General**.



 CT Bureau

In a milestone for regional aviation, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) inaugurated its newly renovated Middle East Regional Office in Cairo. This was made possible with the support of the Egyptian government, underscoring ICAO's seven-decade commitment to advancing aviation cooperation in the Middle East.

This facility will help the ICAO Middle East office to better serve the needs of aviation in the region

Emphasising the importance of the project during the inauguration, Salvatore Sciacchitano, President, ICAO Council, said, "This renovation represents an investment in our shared aviation future. The enhanced facilities will strengthen our ability to support member states across the Middle East region."

The event brought together key aviation leaders, including Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General, ICAO; Mohamed Abubaker Farea, Regional Director, Middle East; Captain Sameh El Hefny, Minister of Civil Aviation, Egypt, and Captain Amr El Sharkawy, President, Civil Aviation Authority, Egypt.

Discussions centred around bolstering regional cooperation and addressing the growing demands of the aviation sector.

Salazar reflected on the office's historical significance and its enhanced role moving forward. "Our Middle East office has played a vital role in advancing regional aviation cooperation ever since it was established. This facility will help us better serve the

growing needs of aviation in the region," he said.

The visit coincided with ICAO's 80th anniversary, which was marked by celebrations hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Egypt. The office reaffirms the aviation organisation's commitment to supporting Middle Eastern member states align with its broader vision for international aviation excellence. 



Officials of the ICAO inaugurate the revamped Middle East regional office in Cairo



His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group among other officials going through the exhibition last year

Dubai to host **next edition** of MRO Middle East and AIME 2025

Dubai is all set to host largest-ever edition of MRO Middle East and Aircraft Interiors Middle East (AIME) from 10 to 11 February 2025 at Dubai World Trade Centre. The event will showcase cutting-edge aviation innovations, expert insights, and supply chain trends. Last year's event had set a bar with 7,500 attendees and 250 exhibitors from 99 countries.

 CT Bureau

Dubai is gearing up to welcome the aviation industry's largest-ever edition of MRO Middle East and Aircraft Interiors Middle East (AIME). The two-day event will be held from 10 February at the iconic Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC). The entire airline supply chain is expected to gather at the event.

“Each year, I await this event to explore the latest industry trends and witness the growth in scope and popularity. Situated in a region that is home to some of the world's leading and significant air-

lines, it truly is a must-attend event for industry professionals,” Mohamad Al Charif, Aircraft Interior and Duty Manager, Engineering, Gulf Air, said. The event offers participants a free, two-day exploration of the latest trends and technologies in the avia-

tion industry. At its heart lies the Go Live! Theatre, which is a hub for exclusive insights from more than 80 global and regional leaders. Sessions will delve into critical themes, including sustainability, capacity challenges, digitalisation, and integration of Sustain-



Over the past five years, the region experienced significant growth in the aviation industry, driven by rising demand for air travel

able Aviation Fuel (SAF). The MRO segment will feature speakers such as Rainer Fink, VP, Power Plant Maintenance, Saudia Technic, Ziad Al

The event offers participants a free, two-day exploration of the latest trends and technologies in the aviation industry

Hazmi, Chief Executive Officer, Lufthansa Technik Middle East, and Shaune du Plessis, COO, Texel Air. They will address challenges such as managing capacity constraints and advancing digitalisation. It may be noted that 7,500 attendees and 250 exhibitors from 99 countries participated in last year’s event, and this year is poised to surpass expectations.

“Over the past five years, the Middle East has experienced significant growth in the aviation industry, driven by rising demand for air travel, fleet expansion, and increased investment in aviation infrastructure,” Jasmin Brickman, Head, Business Development, CAMO4jets, said. “Growth underpins C4J’s reasoning behind exhibiting at the event for the first time,” he added.

The sessions during the event will focus on sustainability and technological advancements, supply chain solutions with trends such as next-gen cabin concepts, strategies for personalised passenger experience, and optimisation of cabin retrofitting. “The future



of the aircraft interiors is being defined by a blend of innovation, sustainability, and adaptability to global trends. At Beond, we are reimagining what aircraft interiors can be, offering a modern and luxuri-

ous design that sets us apart from traditional carriers,” Tero Taskila, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Beond, said. “Our interiors are tailored to provide unparalleled passenger experience, combining

cutting-edge tech with sleek aesthetics that prioritise comfort and elegance. I look forward to sharing how Beond is redefining standards in the industry,” he added.



Aramex launches e-trucks in UAE, slashes in-site customs processing

Aramex introduces fleet of e-trucks comprising eight-tonne Farizon electric trucks equipped with a 162kWh battery to reduce its negative environmental impact. Also, the company has, along with Dubai Customs, reduced customs processing, cutting shipment clearance times by over 50 per cent and saving an average of five hours per shipment.

CT Bureau

Aramex has taken a bold step towards sustainability by deploying its first fleet of electric trucks in partnership with UAE-based Admiral Mobility. This initiative underscores the company's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and promoting environmentally responsible logistics in the oil and gas sector.



Tarek Abuyaghi
General Manager UAE
Aramex

“We want to speed up our net-zero ambitions and offer our customers greener & cleaner logistics solutions.”

The newly introduced fleet consists of eight-ton Farizon electric trucks equipped with a 162kWh battery. These trucks have been rigorously tested and certified for operations in both the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) the deployment is part



of Aramex's broader strategy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050, demonstrating the company's dedication to pioneering sustainable logistics solutions.

Tarek Abuyaghi, General Manager, UAE, Aramex, said: “We are committed to reducing our negative environmental impact through innovative sustainable practices. The partnership with Admiral Mobility advances our plan to increase efficiency, lower energy consumption and material use and improve our environmental footprint. We look forward to accelerating our net-zero ambitions and offering customers greener and cleaner logistics solutions.”

“We are proud to be working with Aramex and assisting them on their drive to more sustainable logistics. The deployment of these electric trucks will enable understand-

ing of operating commercial EVs, which will help Aramex transition its fleet to electric vehicles. We are super excited to be on this journey with Aramex,” Graham Bremer, General Manager, Admiral Mobility, said.

This initiative complements Aramex's ongoing sustainability efforts, which include the adoption of energy-efficient technologies, investment in renewable energy, and the use

of sustainable packaging. The company has also expanded its eco-friendly fleet with the introduction of e-bikes and fully electric vans for last-mile delivery in the UAE.

The firm's goal is to convert 98 per cent of its fleet to electric by 2030, driving decarbonisation. This move benefits the environment and offers eco-conscious clients in the oil and gas sector greener transportation options, setting a new

Highlights

- Aramex launched eight-ton electric trucks in the UAE and KSA, emphasising sustainable logistics
- Partnered with Admiral Mobility to enhance efficiency and reduce environmental impact
- Integrated into broader sustainability efforts, including renewable energy and eco-packaging

Future Plans

- Transition 98% of fleet to electric vehicles by 2030
- Scale renewable energy and carbon reduction initiatives globally
- Strengthening industry partnerships for sustainable innovations & expanding eco-friendly LMD solutions



benchmark for sustainable growth in logistics.

SEAMLESS INSPECTIONS

Meanwhile, Aramex has achieved remarkable efficiency gains through Seamless Inspections initiative introduced by Dubai's Ports, Customs, and Free Zone Corporation. The programme has reduced customs processing, cutting shipment clearance times by over 50 per cent and saving an average of five hours per shipment.

The initiative aims to implement customs officers directly at Aramex warehouses to eliminate the need for the off-site inspections and traditional customs centres, streamlining workflows and reducing associated delays. Goods are now inspected and cleared upon arrival at the warehouses, enabling Aramex to offer customers faster, more reliable shipping solutions while maintaining greater control over operations. "This initiative is a testament to Dubai Customs' dedication to pioneering customs processes. Through leadership and a commitment to innovation, we are enhancing supply chain management, paving the way for sustainable



development, and reinforcing Dubai's global standing in trade and logistics," Khaled Ziad Al-Kilani, Senior Director, Regional Office, Aramex, said. By placing customs officers at the Aramex ware-

Goods are now inspected and cleared upon arrival at the Aramex warehouses

houses, the initiative eliminates the need for off-site inspections and traditional customs centres. Goods are now inspected and cleared as soon as they arrive at the warehouses, simplifying the entire process and reducing delays.


The collaboration improves B2B and B2C services, ensuring shipments arrive on time and with reliability. "Aramex looks forward to continuing its collaboration with Dubai Customs and other partners to enhance supply chain management and

The initiative eliminates the need for off-site inspections and traditional customs centres

efficiency. Together, we are paving the way for sustainable development and attracting new investment, reinforcing Dubai's standing in trade and logistics," Al-Kilani said. 🇦🇪

Unifying **centralising data** for air freight, supply chain

Compelling insights into centralising cargo data across air and ocean freight, offering services that encompass tracking, routing, emissions monitoring, and schedule management. This integrated methodology is essential to address the industry’s complexities and fostering collaboration, says **Archival Garcia, CEO, Fluent Cargo.**

 CT Bureau

Data is the backbone of the air cargo and logistics sector. Fluent Cargo, centralising data across air and ocean logistics, is redefining the game by focusing on schedules, routing, tracking, and carbon footprint.

The company’s mission is to create a centralised hub for air cargo data that serves as an ‘information access super-highway’ for the global logistics ecosystem.

“We are centralising cargo data, both air and ocean, schedules, routing, tracking, and emissions. It is multimodal,” Archival Garcia, CEO, Fluent Cargo, said. This integrated methodology is essential in addressing the industry’s complexities and fostering collaboration, rooted in providing a unified platform to streamline logistics processes for shippers, freight forwarders, and global service providers. The platform integrates disparate data sources, addressing challenges in data management,

security, and operational efficiency. The global reach of the platform ensures compliance with regional privacy laws and security standards, an imperative given the sensitive nature of cargo data.

SECURITY

The logistics industry, while very crucial, is riddled with inefficiencies stemming from siloed systems and outdated practices. “Data is something important, and it has its ups and downs, because you always need to have security in data. How do you go about this, especially for your customers? It is not a one-size-fits-all, but trying to solve the data problem for everybody,” he added.


A significant challenge lies in ensuring data security. Garcia said, “Data security and accessibility are critical in cargo industry, especially with the challenges of manual processes and regional privacy regulations. We aim to provide an information access super-highway, allowing everybody



Archival Garcia
CEO, Fluent Cargo

“ We centralise cargo data, air and ocean, schedules, routing, tracking, and emissions. It is multimodal.”

to use and share data. We are a ‘border less’ technology. It is a software that is used all over the world, and it is global, so we must make sure that we abide by all security laws in every region.”

The company envisions a landscape changed by disruptive technologies and collaborative data ecosystems. They aim to enable seamless integration across platforms and stakeholders, fostering better decision-making and efficiency. “One of the things we are trying to do is expose all of that so that everyone can use it, and everyone has access to it. We are not trying to replace all those systems. We are trying to help them use their systems better by providing better data,” he added. The company unifies logistics data, making it accessible, and accurate. 

INSIGHTS

- The platform integrates data sources, while ensuring compliance with regional privacy laws and security standards, addressing the complexities of a global logistics network
- Fluent Cargo tackles inefficiencies stemming from siloed logistics systems thereby enabling improved decision-making and collaboration

CHALLENGES

- The industry faces inefficiencies from fragmented systems and outdated practices. Bridging these gaps by enabling seamless data sharing has become vital
- Given the sensitive nature of cargo data, emphasis has been laid on security measures aligning with standards to safeguard data accessibility





Trendsetters of the month



Ethiopian Airlines

Ethiopian Airlines' post about the launch of third Airbus A350-1000 in January providing exceptional service.

2.3k views



CEVA Logistics

CEVA Logistics' latest post about the journey of company over the years showing the process of transporting the goods went viral.

6.7k views

250 likes



DHL Global Forwarding

DHL celebrated the milestones of 2024, highlighting the brand's commitment to soaring even higher in 2025.

1.9k views

129 reposts



FedEx

FedEx 'green flag' post went viral, highlighting the ease of returning items quickly at FedEx store, emphasizing convenience and simplicity.

9.7k views



IATA

IATA's recent reel about airline job growth has gained traction, showcasing how the industry employs 86.5 million people worldwide.

19k views

800 likes



Kuehne + Nagel

Kuehne + Nagel's year-in-review video was trending, reflecting on a year where the supply chain industry grew complex and was met with resilience and collaboration.

1.5k views



AI advancing your cargo business



Organise your knowledge: Tool to boost your team's efficiency

Managing workflows and projects across diverse teams can feel like orchestrating a symphony in the chaos of modern work environments. With remote setups, ever-growing task lists, and data spread across platforms, keeping everyone aligned becomes a challenge. That is where tools such as ClickUp step in, transforming productivity and collaboration.

ClickUp: Your ultimate productivity partner

Imagine a tool that not only organises your projects but also thinks ahead to help you stay proactive. Enter ClickUp, the intelligent assistant designed to streamline work, improve

team efficiency, and eliminate bottlenecks. Whether managing tasks, generating ideas, or drafting documents, ClickUp is your team's strategic advantage.

What sets ClickUp apart?

ClickUp does not just support your work—it amplifies it. By combining advanced AI capabilities with the versatile ClickUp platform, it helps teams to do more in less time. Here is what makes it indispensable:

- **Task automation made simple:** Automate routine actions such as assigning tasks, setting deadlines, or sending reminders, so your team can focus on impactful work
- **AI-powered assistance:** Draft, edit, and optimize reports, emails, or meeting notes effortlessly. It is like having an editor on standby 24x7
- **Data-driven insights:** Analyse trends, identify blockers, and predict project outcomes with precision
- **Smart search and suggestions:** Instantly locate files, comments, or updates across projects with AI-driven search capabilities
- **Seamless integration:** Works with tools such as Slack, Google Drive, and Zoom, ensuring a unified workflow experience

Empowering teams of all sizes

From small startups juggling growth priorities to enterprises managing complex cross-departmental projects, ClickUp, adapts to your needs. By reducing manual tasks and improving clarity, it allows teams to achieve better outcomes, together.

Pro Tip: Use ClickUp AI 'Template Brainstorm' feature to create templates for recurring projects such as marketing campaigns or product launches. Customise workflows in minutes and save time across departments.

Work smarter, achieve more

With ClickUp, your team gains the edge needed to stay ahead. Say goodbye to scattered information, missed deadlines, and inefficiencies. Get the future of teamwork with smarter tools that help your team deliver their best.



ASMO delivers integrated solutions for ARAMCO



ASMO, a JV between Saudi Aramco Development Company and DHL, has launched ops, within a year of its establishment. Announced at iktva Forum 2025, the launch coincides with pact with Aramco, stresses supply chain innovation and KSA's Vision 2030 goals.

 CT Bureau

ASMO officially launched its operations yesterday, marking a milestone just one year after its establishment with the announcement of a 15-year Procurement and Logistics Hub Services Agreement with Aramco at the iktva Forum & Exhibition 2025, held at the Dhahran Expo under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Governor of the Eastern Province.

This strategic partnership underscores ASMO's role as a key service provider for Aramco, delivering integrated supply chain solutions.

The agreement encompasses a wide array of services, including procurement, demand planning, inventory management, logistics, warehousing, and establishing logistics hubs, alongside access to a B2B e-marketplace.

"This agreement reflects Aramco's commitment to en-

The pact reflects Aramco's commitment to enhancing supply chain operations and strengthening local capabilities

hancing supply chain operations and strengthening local capabilities," said Sulaiman M. Al Rubaian, Aramco's Senior Vice President of Procurement & Supply Chain Management (A).

"Our long-term agreement with ASMO demonstrates our trust and confidence in its ability to deliver integrated supply chain solutions that will optimize operations, drive cost-efficiency, and build an extensive supply chain ecosystem that is aligned with our strategic priorities." ASMO's operations commence with the opening of its first warehouse

in Riyadh, which will support Aramco's central region operations. The company plans to expand to six strategically located, technology-enabled facilities across Saudi Arabia.

"With the launch of our first warehouse operation in Riyadh and this strategic commercial agreement with Aramco, ASMO is taking its initial steps toward building a resilient logistics network," said Craig Roberts, Chief Executive Officer, ASMO.

"This milestone represents the beginning of our operational journey, as we expand our capabilities, address today's supply chain challenges, and deliver solutions that create value for businesses across Saudi Arabia and the wider MENA region," he added.

ASMO's announcement at the iktva 2025 forum further highlights its commitment to advancing Saudi Arabia's localization efforts, enhancing logistics infrastructure, and contributing to Vision 2030. 


2025

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 4-5** **Supply Chain and Logistics Summit ME**
Dubai, UAE
- 5** **International Conference on Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management**
Riffa, Bahrain
- 10-11** **Breakbulk Middle East**
Dubai, UAE
- 10-12** **Sustainable Aviation Futures MENA Congress 2025**
Dubai, UAE
- 10-13** **Future Warehouse & Logistics**
Dubai, UAE
- 12-13** **Jubail Logistics & Industrial Warehouse Conference 2025**
Al Jubail, KSA
- 14-15** **International Conference on Procurement, Logistics and Supply Chain Management**
Doha, Qatar
- 25-1 March** **WCA Worldwide Conference 2025**
Dubai, UAE

For more information contact: talk@ddppl.com

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

7X, SC Ventures to empower SMEs in MENA

7X has signed a pact with SC Ventures, innovation and fintech arm of Standard Chartered. Announced during Abu Dhabi Finance Week, the pact aims to explore collaborative opportunities in the MENA region, focusing on empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Abdul-



la Mohammed Alashram, Group CEO of 7X, said. The partnership seeks to combine the strengths of the duo to address challenges faced by SMEs, such as funding access and operational inefficiencies through technology-driven solutions, he added.

Mubadala acquires 80% stake in GMSC and IDS

Mubadala Investment Company has acquired an 80 per cent stake in Global Medical Supply Chain (GMSC) and Al Ittihad Drug Store (IDS) from GlobalOne Healthcare Holding (GHH), which retains a 20 per cent share, Ismail Ali Abdulla, Executive Director, UAE Clusters, Mubadala's UAE Investments Platform,



said. "With both the GMSC and IDS in our portfolio, we are poised to create a life sciences sector in the UAE and enable the sector's potential to encompass the value chain from logistics and distribution to specialised manufacturing," Abdulla added.

Emirates Skywards introduces Cash+Miles for transport of pet and car by air

Emirates Skywards has expanded its Cash+Miles feature to include Emirates SkyCargo's specialised services for pets and cars. Over 2.4 million UAE-based members can now use a combination of Cash and Miles to reduce costs for Emirates Pets and Emirates Wheels, Dr. Nejb Ben Khedher, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates Skywards, said. "We are looking for ways to enhance our member offerings and introduce initiatives that unlock



value, choice, and flexibility. Cash+Miles initiative is one of our popular initiatives and we

are thrilled to expand the offering to include savings on select Emirates SkyCargo products."

Air Arabia launches direct flights to Warsaw and Vienna from Sharjah airport

Air Arabia has launched direct flights to Warsaw and Vienna, expanding their international network, from Sharjah airport. These new routes, operated by Airbus A320 aircraft, aim to enhance trade, economic exchange, and foreign investment between the UAE, Poland, and Austria, Ali Salim Al Midfa, Chairman, Sharjah Airport Authority, said. "The new routes enhance trade and economic exchange opportunities between the UAE, Poland, and Austria, while fostering foreign investment with European nations. It solidifies Sharjah's leading position on the Middle East's aviation and



cargo transportation map and boosts its growing economy across various sectors." The

Warsaw route will offer five weekly flights, while Vienna will see four weekly services.

ARDCO and Agility Logistics announce SAR 227 mn warehousing facility in Riyadh

Riyadh Development Company (ARDCO) and Agility Logistics Parks (ALP) have entered into a partnership to develop a warehousing facility in the Rimal district, east of Riyadh. The SAR 227-million project will feature 58,000 square metres of Grade A warehousing space on a 97,904 square metres plot owned by ARDCO. It is to open in the first half of 2026. "We are proud to collaborate with ARDCO on



this project, which reflects our confidence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's potential as one

of the most exciting markets for logistics investment in the world today," Michel Saab, CEO, Agility Logistics Parks, said. Agility has been investing in building strategic logistics infrastructure in the Kingdom for two decades, and we have witnessed first-hand how Riyadh is continuing to strengthen its position as a vital regional and global logistics hub. This project will expand logistics capacity and resilience in the nation," he added.

Royal Air Maroc Cargo launches new routes to São Paulo, Toronto

Royal Air Maroc Cargo has announced the launch of new routes to São Paulo and Toronto, further expanding its footprint across the Americas. The two new routes, which commenced in December, strengthen global connectivity through the airline's Casablanca hub. M. Yassine Berrada, VP Cargo, Royal Air Maroc, said. "Brazil and Morocco have a long-standing partnership, and our new route underscores our ambition to connect these dynamic economies. This direct service supports trade growth not only between our two nations but also opens doors to broader opportunities in West Africa, Türkiye, and the Middle East via our CMN hub," he added. The São Paulo route, operating three times weekly, connects the economic hubs of Morocco and Brazil.



DHL and Allegro to enhance DHL delivery service quality in Poland



DHL e-commerce and Allegro have integrated DHL's delivery services into the Allegro Delivery programme, Anna Krauze, Director, Strategic e-commerce Development, DHL e-commerce, Poland, said. Allegro customers can now access DHL's network, including DHL BOX 24x7 lockers, POP pickup points, and courier services. This collaboration shall improve accessibility for online shoppers, aligning with market trends. "Thanks to continuous investment in modern technologies, we support the development of the Polish e-commerce market," Krauze said.

TAP Air Cargo enhances efficiency by integrating Skypallet ULD



TAP Air Cargo has taken a step in streamlining its operations by integrating the Skypallet ULD and pallet optimisation tool with the Cargospot cargo management software. This API-powered integration aims to enhance the efficiency of shipment evaluation and flight planning. The newly established connection enables TAP Cargo's team to transfer air waybill data from Cargospot to Skypallet, Nathanaël de Tarade, Chief Executive, Wireremind Cargo, said. "Digitalisation brings process efficiencies as the success of our Skypallet product proves: A single solution that, on average, helps improve flight load factors by up to 5 to 10 per cent," Tarade said.

American Airlines Cargo expands ops with new facility at Heathrow Airport

American Airlines Cargo has enhanced its handling capabilities at London Heathrow by relocating to a larger facility. The new facility spans 120,000 square feet, a good 15,000 square feet increase from the original combined locations," Sam Mendenhall, Vice President, Operations, American Airlines Cargo, said. This expansion nearly doubles the capacity for storing PMC pallets and features additional landside and airside doors. "We are confident the move to a larger facility will unlock efficiencies and provide a better experience for our customers," he said.



SGL acquires ITN Logistics Group to expand Canadian operations

Denmark-based freight forwarder, Scan Global Logistics (SGL) has announced the acquisition of ITN Logistics Group. Headquartered in Toronto, ITN operates four locations across Canada, Allan Melgaard, Global Chief Executive, SGL, said. "Acquiring ITN is a move that enhances our presence in Canada and North America. We have worked with ITN for

many years, and the ITN's focus on the customer. It will be a delight to welcome the talent with industry expertise to our organisation," he added. This move is likely to enhance competition within Canada's logistics sector and set the stage for SGL's continued growth in the region.



Glasgow Prestwick Airport launches e-commerce flights, eyes expansion in Asia

Glasgow Prestwick Airport (PIK) has marked a major milestone with the arrival of its first dedicated e-commerce cargo flight, signalling the start of a new era in its operations. The flight, chartered by Zhonger Express and Jumen Logistics, was operated by Silk Way West Airlines Cargo and carried an impressive 90 tonnes from e-commerce platforms, Temu and TikTok,



Vivian Davies, Director, Global Imports, Royal Mail, said. These

products will be delivered across the UK through Royal Mail's final-mile services. "We are excited to continue our partnership with PIK to develop even more innovative solutions at this new e-commerce hub." The achievement follows PIK's designation in June as one of Royal Mail's key e-commerce hubs, further solidifying the airport's role in facilitating international trade.

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo sets record with online bookings via myCargo platform

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo has achieved a milestone in its digital transformation, reporting a record 85 per cent of its bookings were made online last month. This achievement highlights the success of its proprietary myCargo platform to revolutionise the way users interact with the airline's cargo services. myCargo has since evolved into an online service hub and the expertise of AFKLM's cargo team. The platform is designed to meet demands of businesses for fast and 24x7 accessibility. "We continue to take bold steps in our commercial transformation by of-



fering unique, next-level service propositions to meet the demands and needs of our

customers," GertJan Roelands, SVP, Commercial, Air France KLM Martinair Cargo, said.

Swiss WorldCargo joins hands with Freightos to improve air freight booking

Swiss WorldCargo has announced a partnership with Freightos to enhance the booking experience for forwarders by integrating Swiss WorldCargo's offerings into Freightos' WebCargo platform. The partnership will enable forwarders in selected markets across Europe, Asia, and the Americas to access Swiss WorldCargo products directly on the WebCargo platform, Alain Chisari, Head, Swiss



Cargo, said. "We take pride in delivering Swiss-quality service and reliability across each aspect

of our work. This commitment extends to our digital journey. Partnering with the digital platform WebCargo allows us to elevate our customers' digital booking experience, while expanding our market presence onto future-looking digital solutions," he added. By combining WebCargo's real-time rate comparison and eBooking capabilities with Swiss WorldCargo's long-haul connectivity, the initiative seeks to simplify the booking process.

CLAR all set to acquire DHL Logistics Center

CapitaLand Ascendas REIT (CLAR) is set to acquire the DHL Indianapolis Logistics Center in Indiana, USA, for US\$150.3 million (US\$115.8 million) in its first sale-and-leaseback transaction in the country. The acquisition aligns with CLAR's strategy to expand its logistics portfolio and



will boost its US logistics assets under management by 35.3% to US\$ 587.5 million. William Tay, Executive Director and CEO, Ascendas Funds Management (S) Ltd., said, "This way we will strengthen our logistics presence in the USA."

Global Crossing Airlines to launch cargo airline in Oz

Global Crossing Airlines has partnered with an Asian private equity group to launch a new airline in Australia focused on cargo transportation. The JV will seek an Australian AOC to provide charter and contracted services for airlines and large businesses within Australia and to key Asian markets, Ryan Goepel, Presi-



dent and CFO, Global Crossing, said. The narrowbody A321 freighter will offer up to 25 tonnes capacity. It is suited to the demands of Asia-Pacific region. It is an opportunity to provide supplemental airlift to existing A321 freighter operators in the region, he added.

Movements

ETIHAD CARGO UAE



Anju Joy joined as CRM and Training Manager, Etihad Cargo. She has 15 years of expertise in digital transformation, CRM management, and training. Joy's role drives operational efficiency and enhances customer engagement.

EV CARGO Hong Kong



Heath Zarin has been appointed as Executive Chairman of EV Cargo. In his new role, he will focus on guiding the overall strategic direction of EV Cargo to deliver exceptional value to its customers, employees, and the stakeholders.

KLM CARGO Netherlands



Charlotte Elpers has been appointed as the VP, Worldwide Cargo Operations, KLM Cargo. She has swayed into this role from being VP, Passenger Services, KLM's Schiphol hub. Elpers has 20-year experience with the KLM Group.

JETTAINER Germany



Stefanie Pauly has been appointed as the Chief Information and Technology Officer, Jettainer. Experienced in IT project management and process optimisation in cargo sector, she will work with Jettainer's IT team to smoothen operations.

DEUGRO KSA



Johnny El Hayek has been appointed Country Manager, KSA, at deugro. Previously, he was GM for KSA's Eastern Region at Damam for deugro. El Hayek will now oversee deugro's team across three offices, also driving deugro's growth.

GEODIS France



Marc Vollet has been declared as EVP, European Road Network Line of Business, GEODIS. In his new role, he will join the Management Board. Vollet's role in European Road Network began in 2009, when he was Director of Operations.

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