



# AIRLIFT WORLD

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## BOC AVIATION ANNOUNCES PURCHASE OF TWO BOEING 747-8 FREIGHTER AIRCRAFT



**BOC Aviation Limited (“BOC Aviation” or “the Company”) announced today that it has purchased two Boeing 747-8 freighter aircraft. Both aircraft have been committed on long-term leases to AirBridgeCargo Airlines, one of the world’s leading international cargo airlines.**

“We are pleased to add a strong new partner, AirBridgeCargo Airlines, to our customer base as it expands its services within the cargo sector,” said Steven Townend, Chief Commercial Officer (Europe, Americas and Africa), BOC Aviation. “The Boeing 747-8F is a technologically advan-

ced aircraft and is one of the most capable long-haul freighter aircraft. This transaction further diversifies our portfolio as we continue to grow our fleet through accretive investment.”

“We appreciate BOC Aviation’s trust and support in the development of our Boeing 747-8F fleet. We strongly believe in the capabilities of this state-of-the-art aircraft and the benefits that it brings to people all over the world. We are glad that the number of companies and people who recognize the advantages of this aircraft and are interested in purchasing it is growing,” added Sergey Lazarev, General Director of AirBridgeCargo Airlines.

## AIRBRIDGE CARGO SEES DEMAND FOR 747F CHARTERS GROW 47% YEAR-ON-YEAR



**AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC), already one of the world's fastest-growing scheduled cargo airlines, is also developing a successful charter business based on demand for the unique capabilities of its Boeing 747 freighters.**

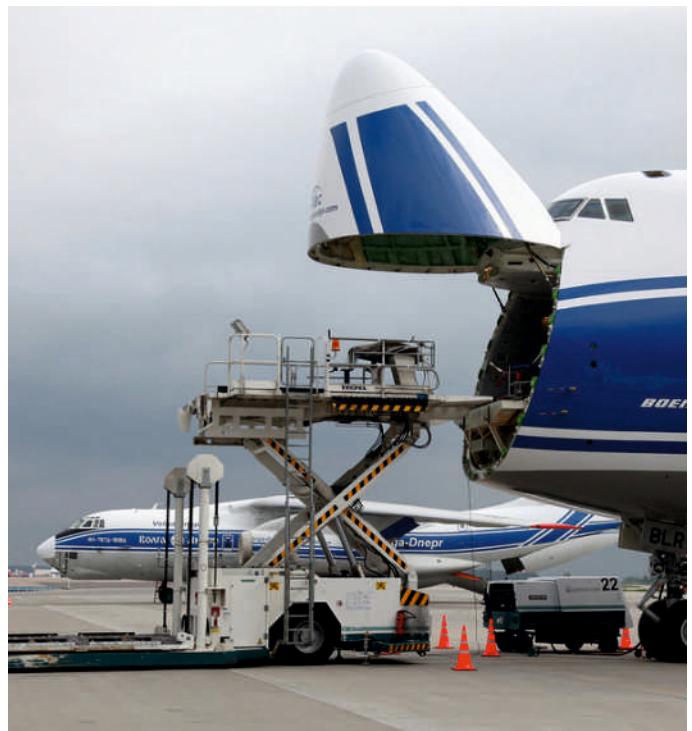
In 2016, the airline saw a 47% YOY increase of charter flights using its 747 freighters. Its latest flights were operated on behalf of DHL Global Forwarding for Evatec, leaders in the production of thin film coating solutions used in Wireless Communications, Advanced Packaging, MEMS, Optoelectronics, High Precision Optics, and Power Devices.

ABC delivered a series of seven-tonne off-size wooden boxes containing machine tools from Europe to Asia Pacific. Its first charter flight for DHL and Evatec operated from Amsterdam to Hong Kong via the airline's hub in Moscow Sheremetyevo. This was followed two weeks later by a second delivery of cargo originating in Zurich which was flown on a route of Frankfurt-Moscow-Hong Kong.

Overall, AirBridgeCargo transported 80 tonnes of machinery for the mass production of thin film coatings to support Evatec's growing business at customers in China.

Sergey Lazarev, General Director at ABC, said: "We were chosen for these specific flights due to

our reputation for on-time performance as well as our proven expertise in managing safe deliveries of high value production equipment. The loading process was monitored by representatives from Evatec to ensure the integrity of their cargo. This is also a strong reflection of the growing demand we are seeing for Boeing 747F charter services, which we are able to meet due to the continued expansion of our 747 fleet." ■





## VOLGA-DNEPR AN-124-100 RACES FIRE-FIGHTING HELICOPTERS TO CHILE

**Georgia-based Helicopter Express called upon Volga-Dnepr Airlines' expertise in fast response transportation services for an urgent delivery of helicopters to fight the outbreak of wildfires that are plaguing the Chilean countryside.**

Helicopter Express, contractors to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Department of Interior (DOI), are highly-respected experts in fire-fighting operations and provide services such as aerial water delivery, prescribed burning, rappelling operations, and personnel delivery. For this mission, they were contracted by the Chilean government.

With safety and speed the highest priorities, one of Volga-Dnepr's An-124-100 freighters touched down at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport less than three hours after the helicopters arrived at the airport for 11-hour flight to Santiago. The unique cargo carrying capabilities of the An-124-100 meant it was able to transport all three Bell 205 helicopters, a K-MAX 1200 helicopter and a flatbed truck and trailer onboard a single flight.

The timeliness of the operation was also supported by Volga-Dnepr's 26 years' experience of carrying helicopters for customers all

over the world. The knowledge the airline has accumulated over this period, combined with the loading characteristics of the An-124-100, means the airline is able to safely transport most helicopters without them requiring dismantling, other than removing the rotor blades. This means helicopters can commence operations almost immediately on arrival at their destination.

The total weight of the payload onboard the An-124-100, which took up the entire floor of the cargo hold, was 25 tonnes.

Peter Baldauf, Key Account Manager, Aerospace at Volga-Dnepr, Houston, Texas, said: "This was a case of two companies that are experts in their fields of operations joining forces to provide a fast solution to help the Chilean government tackle the wildfires in central and southern Chile. Although we regularly carry helicopters, including in the past to fight wildfires, this was the first time we have had the pleasure of working with the team at Helicopter Express so it provided us with an opportunity to demonstrate our capabilities. We expect to be working together again in the future in support of their full range of heavy lifting, disaster relief and helicopter charter services." ■

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS RECOGNISE THE EXPERTISE OF VOLGA-DNEPR'S TEAM

Bolloré Logistics, a highly valued and long-term partner of Volga-Dnepr Group, has expressed its gratitude to the group of experts at Volga-Dnepr involved in the latest series of flights to deliver satellite equipment to the European Space Center in Cayenne, French Guiana.



Bolloré Logistics acknowledged the great support and teamwork shown by Volga-Dnepr's experts in helping to resolve the challenges associated with the deliveries of satellites onboard Volga-Dnepr Airlines' An-124-100 'Ruslan' freighter for Thales Alenia Space

"We are very pleased with these successful transportations considering the great importance of the European space project and time limits for the Ariane rocket launch. The task was completed perfectly due to the seamless interaction and teamwork of Volga-Dnepr and Bolloré Logistics. THALES ALENIA SPACE, the customer for this transportation, expressed its appreciation to us," commented Cedric Burgon, Projects Leader at Bolloré Logistics.

Matthew Thear, Customer Service Manager, Volga-Dnepr Airlines, said the work on this series of flights took some three months of preparation. "10 flights from Europe to Cayenne, French Guiana, and from the USA to Europe were performed during the period from 5 January to 18 February. These flights were operated as part of Volga-Dnepr Group's new five-year contract with Bolloré Logistics and Thales Alenia Space which was signed while planning these deliveries at the end of 2016. As a team, working closely with the specialists at Bolloré, we can take great satisfaction from the success of this latest project and the solution we have jointly delivered for Thales Alenia Space."

This delivery of satellites also saw the use of new lightweight loading equipment for the transportation of aerospace cargo that has been developed by Volga-Dnepr's specialists in strict compliance with the customers' requirements. This initiative by the Group's Cargo Planning Center resulted in the production of the new aluminum ramp extension and

its proposed use to the customer for loading and unloading of Thales Alenia Space satellite containers. The agreement to use the new equipment enabled Volga-Dnepr to reduce the time for loading and unloading operations by an hour for the Brazilian SGDC communications satellite and the Korean KR7 satellite, as well as equipment for preparation and control of their launch, planned for 27 March. These satellites were delivered from Nice, France, to Cayenne on 13 February.

Vladimir Grigoryev, Lead Engineer, Cargo Planning and Logistics, said the coordination of the new Landsport ramp extension proposed to Bolloré Logistics for the satellites delivery took about a month. "We managed to prove the efficiency of the new equipment for delivery of such cargo as well as the absence of risks during the loading, transportation of the two space vehicles and unloading processes. These factors were carefully assessed by the customer's insurance company. This new ramp extension is lighter and more convenient. It will play an important role in the transportation of aerospace equipment in our company due to its many advantages, such as simplicity, ergonomics, its small size and production effectiveness," he explained.

Volga-Dnepr's international colleagues at Bolloré Logistics highly appreciated this technical innovation and recognised its effectiveness for similar deliveries onboard the airline's

An-124-100 'Ruslan' freighters in the future. Two aircrews were involved in this project to perform the most recent flight in the shortest possible timescale. The entire team involved in this project contributed to the joint success of Volga-Dnepr and Bolloré in achieving full compliance with the requirements of Thales Alenia Space and their insurance representatives ■

## VD GULF EXTENDS AIRWORTHINESS OF LEGENDARY B747-400 AIRCRAFT



**Base load customers of VD Gulf are B747-400 operators who regularly bring in aircrafts for base maintenance to VD Gulf hangar at Sharjah Airport. Thus, A Boeing 747-400 aircraft arrived to VD Gulf for another planned heavy C-check , a severe corrosion was observed on two of the aft belly skins, requiring repair/ replacement of the skin/ stringer combination, including a complete replacement of the skin.**

VD Gulf team developed a unique procedure for this repair and received exclusive approval from Boeing for all proposed repair schemes. The uniqueness of the repair was not only in schemes of works, but also necessitated manufacture of special trusses, jigs, fixtures and extended arm English-Wheel.

VD Gulf team worked in unison on this complicated and exclusive repair of the legendary B747-400. At the moment all the work has been successfully completed, the aircraft is in airworthiness and fulfills tasks of our customer.

Mikhail Khoroshaev, VD Gulf Director General, said: «Our ability to perform such extensive and complex structural work to a high quality level allows our customers to be confident that there are no impossible tasks for VD Gulf. We highly appreciate the entire VD Gulf team. I am sure that such experience once again proves our professionalism and ability to solve any problems for our customers. ■

## AMTES GMBH SEES DEMAND FOR AIRCRAFT MRO SERVICES IN GERMANY RISE 40%

AMTES GmbH has achieved a 40% increase in its aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) business in Germany in the opening months of 2017. Based at Leipzig Airport and affiliated to Volga-Dnepr Group – owners of Volga-Dnepr Airlines, AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) and ATRAN Airlines, AMTES has seen growth in its line maintenance services for the Group as well as for third party international airlines.

AMTES' reputation for its quality of work and efficient organization of production is reflected in its busy start to 2017 as airlines, including AirBridgeCargo, prefer to schedule routine maintenance checks during the traditional New Year slowdown in volumes. In January and February, AMTES GmbH successfully completed 11 A-Checks on Boeing 747-400 and Boeing 747-8 aircraft and a GENX engine change. Overall, nine checks were performed for AirBridgeCargo. A further two checks were carried out on Boeing 747 freighters operated by CargoLogicAir, an ACMI partner of ABC. The maintenance checks and additional works required up to 1000 Mhrs.

In addition to the services for companies and partners of Volga-Dnepr Group, AMTES also increased its scope of work for external customers, including line maintenance on a Boeing 777 for AeroLogic. AMTES is also helping airlines to reduce the downtime of their aircraft by performing maintenance of aircraft cargo handling equipment.

Arthur Miller, Deputy Managing Director at AMTES GmbH, said: "These examples of AMTES' work show the value to Volga-Dnepr Group of having an affiliated maintenance business. It offers the opportunity to perform aircraft maintenance at the most convenient times for its fleet operations, ensuring they can provide the highest levels of service and reliability for customers during the peak demand seasons. Our success in winning contracts with third party airlines also demonstrates our ability to make a growing contribution to the Volga-Dnepr Group of companies." ■

## VD GULF EXPANDS COOPERATION WITH TURKISH OPERATORS



**VD Gulf welcomes to its facility near Sharjah International airport, Turkish operator MyCargo as its next major Customer from the European region.**

VD Gulf secured Turkish Civil Aviation approval in December 2016, that qualifies VD Gulf to carry out MRO services on Boeing 747-400 model aircraft registered in Turkey. With this, VD Gulf opens another door to a new region and expands its geographic coverage area. Under the agreement signed between MyCargo airline and VD Gulf, a Boeing 747-400 aircraft will undergo heavy maintenance work at VD Gulf's hangar complex.

Mikhail Khoroshaev, VD Gulf Director General said : "We are glad to welcome MyCargo airlines to our facility. We at VD Gulf are fully prepared to provide quality maintenance services, within the shortest time possible and with maximum benefit to the customer, My Cargo Airlines.

Cooperation with the Turkish operators has been and remains one of the key elements of our company development since Turkey is located within a 4-hour flight range and has proximity advantages. With each step in the development of the company, we are covering more and more regions. I am sure that in future VD Gulf will expand its coverage span as well as types of aircraft it serves." ■

## Your Reliable Partner for All Your Aircraft Maintenance Needs: VD Gulf at MRO Middle East 2017

VD Gulf sales platform captured attention of more than 600 visitors during domestic MRO Middle East 2017 event at Dubai World Trade Center on 8th and 9th of February.

Organized by Aviation Week, MRO Middle East 2017 attracted record number of visitors, more than 4,500 stakeholders from the aviation industry, over 280 exhibitors and over 700 airline attendees from 100+ airlines from all over the world.

VD Gulf appearance was aimed to show its facility, capabilities and opportunities in airframe services. Hangar miniature was used as a platform for Sales and Management team to demonstrate VD Gulf's capability and expertise. More than 600 visitors from the industry visited the VD Gulf stand.

Mikhail Khoroshaev, Director General of VD Gulf said, "The presence of VD Gulf at this yearly domestic event shows our strong position and strategy in the Middle East MRO market. The number of high level meetings held by our team proved our demand and professionalism in the industry. Also, we are glad to announce launching two contracts for base maintenance checks during 2 show days" ■



## VOLGA-DNEPR INNOVATORS DEVELOPED UPGRADED EQUIPMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF LANDING GEARS

Aircraft Maintenance Department of Volga-Dnepr Airlines has developed a special multi-purpose equipment to replace main and nose landing gears of AN-124-100 "Ruslan" aircraft



This equipment was manufactured by the specialists of Aircraft Maintenance Department at the premises of preproduction shop led by Alexander Mitrohin, GSE Engineer, using drawings of Anatoly Zverev, Technology Engineer.

"This new equipment is developed considering LEAN-technologies (lean production), occupational safety and health, all suggestions and remarks of aircraft technicians responsible for such scope of work. Improved high-technology construction is made of advanced materials and suitable for any types of AN-124-100 landing gears", - said Nazym Basyrov, Chief Engineer of Aircraft Maintenance Department.

It was 13 times cheaper for Volga-Dnepr Airlines to manufacture this equipment by own efforts than involve third parties. Operational replacement of landing gears allowed avoiding aircraft downtime. Aircraft was put into commercial operation within a month.



Aircraft Maintenance Department is currently working on development of similar construction. Then it will be delivered to Germany for maintenance and repair work on aircraft in Leipzig. It is planned in 2017 to manufacture equipment for installation and removal of D18T engine pylons making it possible to avoid expensive rent of equipment of the third parties, perform quality work for service life extension of aircraft by own efforts ■

## ON THE WAY TOWARD EFFECTIVE AIRWORTHINESS PROCESSES IN 2017

The Frankfurt warehouse was established in June 2013 as the main hub for AirBridgeCargo spares and fleet support. Logistics services have been transferred from Schenker DB to Amtes GmbH to optimize Group costs and reduce times for spares delivery to maintenance service providers worldwide, and to apron when performing maintenance work on the Group's fleet at Amtes GmbH line station in Frankfurt.

At first, the team included 7 personnel, but due to consistent expansion of workscopes and to satisfy the growing needs, including adding up two new customers, Air Atlanta Icelandic and CargoLogicAir, it was increased to fourteen. In 2015, our team concluded 32,047 transactions, while in 2016, the work load increased by over 23% to 39,562 transactions. Besides, key performance indicators (KPI) increased on average from 45% in 2014 to 92.56% in 2015, and to outstanding 99.54% in 2016, reaching 100% four times during the period.

Also, throughout the project, the warehousing area has expanded several times making 1,065 sq. m to date, with overall increase by 44.78%. At present, our warehouse accommodates over



8,500 storage items making a total of nearly under 200,000 pieces.

AMTES Managing Director, Mr. I. Ilyasov says: "This project serves a good example of cost optimization on continued airworthiness efforts of the Group and improved service quality by way of combining efficient logistics and maintenance teams, which allowed to reduce spare parts delivery times and minimize aircraft downtimes for maintenance purposes in Frankfurt. Warehouse operations are continuously evolving and reorganizing featuring expansion of storage area and services to meet customer demands." ■

## VD GULF INNOVATION CENTER

Inspired by the Group of Companies two-day training conducted at Dubai GE office and in particular, GE's innovation center, VD Gulf have started its own Innovation Center.

The purpose of the VD Gulf Innovation Center is to encourage all staff to bring forward any break through ideas or process that add value to VD Gulf business, its customers and stakeholders.

All employees are encouraged to come up with new ideas to radically change or improve elements of our service and at the same time result in cost savings by eliminating unnecessary aspects of the processes we follow.

It will also be a showcase to our customers and through our Innovation Center; we plan to share the benefits with our valued customers.

For this purpose, we selected a small room near the management office, which is now completely renovated and refurbished to serve as VD Gulf Innovation Center.



The IT and Facilities team worked hard and fixed required TV Projectors, Surface Computers, Glass Boards and other amenities in the Innovation Center.

Employees can email ideas that create value to VD Gulf business and its customers, with complete details, to [innovation@vdgulf.com](mailto:innovation@vdgulf.com) or deliver written suggestions to the Personal Assistance of the Director General. Innovation Boxes will also be placed at strategic locations in the hangar and corridors and any employee with new idea may deposit such suggestions in any one of these boxes ■

## CARGO SUPERMARKET IN ACTION

The European office of AirBridgeCargo together with Atran and Volga-Dnepr Airlines arranged and operated a series of flights as a part of Volga-Dnepr Cargo Supermarket. Two Boeing 737 flights were performed from Europe accompanied by one An-124-100 flight from Europe to America.

With full utilization of the available aircraft capacities, the well-coordinated work of experts representing all the Group Sales Departments satisfied all the requirements of the customer and provided for timely cargo delivery on cost-effective terms once again showing Cargo Supermarket concept in action.

I would like to note that high-quality and responsible work is mainly the result of personnel expertise and team cooperation. Professional skills of each employee contribute to success of any company.



**S.Lazarev,**  
General Director, AirBridge Cargo Airlines LLC

## VD GULF EXPANDS ITS ACTIVITIES

**VD Gulf, with its fast expanding customer base, heralds its entry into the Indian market by securing Indian Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) approval for maintenance of aircraft registered in India.**

On 27 February 2017, VD Gulf received its Indian DGCA CAR 145 approval for maintenance and overhaul of Boeing 747-400, Boeing 737CL/NG and all Airbus A320 family aircraft. The approval covers unlimited base/ line maintenance on these aircraft models and component overhaul based on current capability.

This certification is a result of a thorough and detailed assessment, appraisal and physical audit of VD Gulf facility and capability by Indian DGCA experts and specialists.

This certification allows VD Gulf to enter the Indian MRO market and provide value-added services to the ever-expanding Indian commercial aviation sector.

Mikhail Khoroshaev, VD Gulf Director General, said: "Taking a step towards South Asian market is a new milestone not only for VD Gulf but for many Indian operators. Several Indian based operators have approached us for support and we can now fulfill their requirement. VD Gulf plan to continue exploring in the region and cover more countries by providing line and base maintenance services" ■



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