



AIRLIFT WORLD

Edition for insurance company
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Dear friends!

The background of the lower half of the page is a light blue, textured surface with a subtle pattern of pine branches and pinecones. The text 'Dear friends!' is written in a large, elegant, blue cursive font, centered over the pine branches.

On behalf of the whole group of companies «Volga-Dnepr» we thank you for the high professionalism and cooperation in 2018!

The outgoing year gave us new knowledge and valuable experience for new achievements in 2019. In Russia, there is a saying “How you will meet the new year so you will spend it,” so we wish you an active, warm, happy meeting of the new year!

Let all the challenges that participants in the insurance market are facing now will make us more powerful and reliable, dynamic and open in the coming year, and most importantly - more understandable and attractive to our customers.

We wish the new year to bring you tremendous joy and new heights of success! Let our partnership strengthen, business develops and benefits!
Health, joy, warmth to you and your loved ones!

Happy Merry Christmas and New Year!

SITAONAIR's aircraft Internet of Things takes off with pioneering AirBridgeCargo and CargoLogicAir project

07/16/2018

SITAONAIR's trademark 'open platforms' approach is turning the aircraft Internet of Things (IoT) concept into a reality, in a key development for the air transport industry. By applying its open platforms approach to delivering bespoke IoT capabilities onboard, SITAONAIR will securely integrate diverse aircraft avionics – encompassing sensors, connectivity, hardware, applications and more – heightening the potential of the connected aircraft.

For this aircraft IoT project, SITAONAIR is joining forces with two pioneering cargo carriers AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) and CargoLogicAir (CLA) at the 2018 Farnborough Air Show in July. They will demonstrate how SITAONAIR's IoT platform enables two strategic partners, ABC and CLA, to monitor, in real-time, the journey of sensitive pharmaceutical cargo inflight.

SITAONAIR's specific IoT solution for AirBridgeCargo and CargoLogicAir works by collecting IoT data provided by OnAsset Intelligence, its demo partner, and cargo-monitoring specialist, during the course of a flight. This OnAsset Intelligence data is then fed through SITAONAIR's onboard IoT edge gateway. The data can then be sent, securely, to its ground data management and dispatch platform, built to monitor the inflight status of carriers' goods.

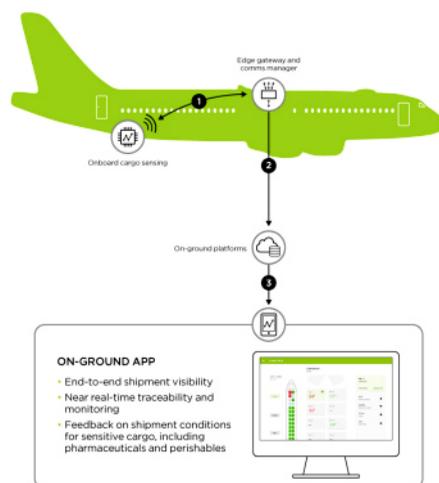
Currently, there are no other solutions on the market that provide inflight cargo sensing and freight condition visibility, as perishable and temperature-sensitive goods can only be

monitored on the ground. SITAONAIR's collaboration with AirBridgeCargo and CargoLogicAir therefore represents a shift in technological intelligence, enabling actions or decisions to be made inflight to help optimize performance.

Sergey Lazarev, General Director of AirBridgeCargo Airlines, says: "As one of the world's leading cargo airline, digital pharma is a priority innovation focus for us. With genuine Internet of Things capabilities, enabled for us onboard by SITAONAIR, our digital pharma service is born, ensuring we can provide the best transportation conditions inflight for customers' invaluable cargo."

David Kerr, CEO of CargoLogicAir, highlights: "Customers in the air cargo industry are aiming at getting better digital experience. With SITAONAIR we will be able to move towards to establishing of holistic digital environment for our customers".

Dominique El Bez, SITAONAIR VP of Product & Strategy, says: "We are proud to work with AirBridgeCargo and Cargo-



LogicAir to further improve inflight aircraft and transported assets monitoring, bringing additional value to the airline.

"With over two-thirds (67%) of commercial airlines surveyed by SITA Group ambitious to invest in Internet of Things initiatives in the years ahead, the IoT arena is truly set to take off. As the true experts in delivering the promises of the connected aircraft, through our wealth of in-flight connectivity, aircraft data management, and aircraft communications solutions, we are naturally positioned to bring game-changing innovation to the aircraft Internet of Things space.

"Our vision is for SITAONAIR to become the enabler of IoT ecosystems onboard aircraft, with an open platform that will be aircraft safety compliant and cost-effective. Developed in collaboration with the wider aviation industry, our experts and engineers are enthusiastically exploring aircraft IoT functionalities, and with our rate of development, we aim to bring a sweep of aircraft IoT portfolio products to market from 2019"

AIRBRIDGECARGO STRENGTHENS ITS ASIAN FOOTPRINT BY ADDING HO CHI MINH CITY TO ITS INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

07/23/2018

Ho Chi Minh City – AirBridgeCargo Airlines is launching new freighter service to one of the busiest cities of Vietnam, thus increasing dedicated maindeck capacity to and from one of the major manufacturing hotspots in Asia and adding it to its international network of more than 30 destinations.



The flight will link customers from Singapore and Ho Chi Minh City with other destinations within ABC international network through cargo hub in Moscow on board one of its Boeing 747 freighters to guarantee 48-hour delivery time, including ground handling. Ho Chi Minh City will become the 12th Asian online destination thus strongly reinforcing ABC presence in Asia.

“On the back of economy growth of more than 7% and increasing export volumes, Vietnam seems like the right place to offer direct freight services to other regions, especially Europe and the North America – something we can offer to the market with diversified number of destinations and high level of service quality, including for special cargoes. We have been expanding our network following our customers needs and expectations and segment-wise, we foresee support from companies specializing in electronics and garments shipments” – highlighted Sergey Lazarev, General Director of AirBridgeCargo Airlines.

Said Mr. Nguyen Nam Tien - Vice Director of Tan Son Nhat International Airport (TIA): “We greatly welcome AirBridgeCargo Airlines at our airport and Ho Chi Minh City market. We strongly believe that our cooperation will strengthen position of SGN airport, as

most local freight forwarder will get access to direct freighter services to Russia, EU and North America. The ability and professional services of AirBridgeCargo Airlines together with the solid experience of the TIA will together facilitate market development of freight services in Vietnam and serve as a solid ground for Asia market.

We are very pleased to have been given the opportunity to cooperate with AirBridgeCargo Airlines in this important stage of their development and look forward to creating a long term successful partnership together.”

The introduction of Ho Chi Minh City will strengthen ABC presence in Vietnam powered by more than 3-year successful operations to/from the capital of Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh City coupled with Hanoi will facilitate total coverage of Vietnamese catchment area, thus providing more options for delivery to the customers. ABC has been aimed at network expansion in close conjunction with quality enhancement, focusing on realignment of internal procedures, developing new offers for special cargoes, reinforcing personnel at all the levels, and introducing industry-related initiatives and IT-solutions ■

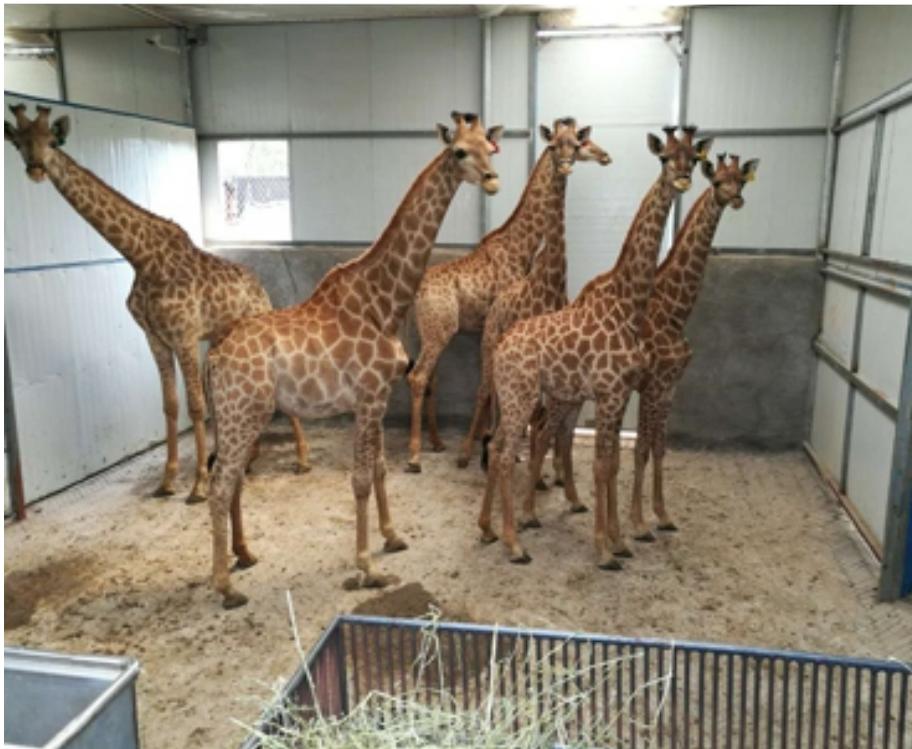
AIRBRIDGECARGO DEMONSTRATES THE LIVE ANIMALS EXPERTISE OF ITS 'ABC CARE' PRODUCT BY TRANSPORTING 66 GIRAFFES

08/02/2018

AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) has successfully transported 66 giraffes onboard one of its Boeing 747 freighters. The charter flight was operated at the end of July from South Africa's O. R. Tambo International Airport near Johannesburg to Zhengzhou, China, via ABC's Moscow Sheremetyevo cargo hub.

The 66 baby giraffes, collectively weighing around 38 tonnes, were on their way to various animal parks in the Zhengzhou region. With each giraffe up to three meters in height, special transportation containers were provided by the customer to ensure their comfort, safety and well-being throughout the transportation process. The long-necked animals travelled in groups of three in each container and were accompanied by animal specialists as well as a plentiful supply of water and nutritious food during their journey.

A dedicated abc CARE team – representing the airline's specialist live animals service – ensured all of the flight and handling procedures were organized in compliance with IATA's Live Animals Regulations and provided their expertise to complete the required documentation for the transportation. From acceptance to delivery, the abc CARE specialists created the perfect travel environment for



the giraffes, ensuring their safe arrival in China.

“Each time we organize a dedicated charter flight with live animals onboard, we fully understand the high level of our responsibility to ensure their safety and well-being. We also must show our customers that their trust is us as experienced logistics practitioners for such important cargoes is well placed and in full compliance with international industry standards. In the first half of 2018, we witnessed an 18% increase in the transportation of live animals, which reflects our reputation as a proven and reliable service provider for these specialist air cargo services,” highlighted Sergey Lazarev, General Director of AirBridgeCargo Airlines.

Jasmine Zhang, Airfreight Manager of BSI Logistics (Tianjin) Limited, ABC's customer for the flight, stated: “We're happy to see our lovely giraffes starting their new lives in China. Thankfully, they are all safe and healthy! We really appreciate ABC's hard work, professional assistance and support. We think our best choice is to choose your charter service for our next shipment.”

AirBridgeCargo Airlines have been strengthening its position in the live animals transportation market through its dedicated abc CARE service, realigning its internal procedures, gaining required quality certificates, and organizing deliveries to meet even the most challenging customer requirements. ■



VOLGA-DNEPR AND HENAN PROVINCE PARTNERS TO EXPAND 'ONE BELT, ONE ROAD' COOPERATION 08/08/2018

Volga-Dnepr Group, Henan Airport Group and Zhongyuan Asset Management have signed a framework agreement on long-term strategic cooperation following a series of meetings between the leaders of Volga-Dnepr and Henan province in Russia and China.

Aleksey Isaikin, President of Volga-Dnepr Group, stated: "This signed agreement is a commitment to transition the long-term cooperation between Volga-Dnepr, Henan province in general, and Henan Airport Group in particular, to a new level. What unites us and our partners is shared adherence to our development strategies and global industrial leadership, as well as our determination to make a notable contribution to strengthening cooperation between Russia and China through the creation of a mutually beneficial trans-Siberian air bridge within the scope of the unprecedented 'One Belt, One Road' initiative. Having a unique fleet, which includes An-124-100, Il-76TD-90VD, Boeing 747 and Boeing 737 cargo aircraft, Volga-Dnepr Group is the largest Russian airfreight carrier and has extensive experience in the Chinese market. The potential advantages of Zhengzhou were obvious to us right from the beginning, notably its advantageous geographical location and the existence of the Zhengzhou Airport Economic Comprehensive Experimental Zone, which boasts a positive development trend. This Experimental Zone is the first and only one in China, and its development is supported by the Chinese government."

The 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, which the signed agreement is now part of, was announced by the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping in 2013. Its realization is aimed at developing a new international cooperation model with the participation of China, including the creation of trans-regional transportation and investment infrastructure. Russia is one of the most important strategic partners of the initiative. Zhongyuan Asset Management Co., Ltd. was established in 2015 with the approval of the People's Government of Henan province and bases itself upon serving the implementation of the national strategy of the Zhengzhou Airport Economic Comprehensive Experimental Zone.

Volga-Dnepr Group is connected to China by an extensive history of cooperation, first commencing air charter flights to the country in the 1990s. When the Group launched AirBridgeCargo Airlines in 2004, its first scheduled freighter services were to China. AirBridgeCargo was the first foreign cargo carrier to begin operating to Zhengzhou Airport. The airline and Zhengzhou have since established a strong partnership and, today, AirBridgeCargo operates daily 747 all-cargo flights to the airport. ■

Volga-Dnepr Airlines ensures an intact transportation of bottle-filling equipment

10/04/2018

Volga-Dnepr Airlines has organized and operated a charter flight for its customer, LS International Cargo GMBH, delivering a Krones bottle-filling machine and additional equipment onboard its legendary An-124-100 freighter.

The cargo was loaded in Munich, where Krones' nearest production

facility in Germany is located, to be delivered to Entebbe, Uganda, for Crown Beverages Limited, a leading soft drinks bottler in Uganda. The new machinery aims to boost its production facilities and production volumes to guarantee smooth distribution across Uganda and East Africa.

Volga-Dnepr's experienced and highly-skilled specialists organized an inspection of the cargo in Munich to find the most suitable loading solution, provide suggestions for cargo preparation for airfreight, and to minimize the time required for airport handling procedures on the day of departure. On

the day of the flight, the machinery was loaded into the An-124-100 using special loading equipment and successfully delivered to Entebbe International Airport.

“This project allowed us to showcase our expertise and experience in the provision of dedicated services for the energy and heavy machinery industries. The ideal location of our regional operational base in Leipzig, Germany, with available operations personnel and essential loading equipment, made it possible to save time while organizing on-site visits to Munich for cargo inspection. Accessibility of the airplane at our local operational base in Germany made the costs for positioning the aircraft minimal and the charter flight attractive for our customer price-wise,” highlighted Ekaterina Andreeva, Commercial Manager of Volga-Dnepr in the UK.

For more than 28 years, Volga-Dnepr has been the leading transporter of super-heavy and oversized shipments by air onboard its unique fleet of 12 An-124-



100 and 5 IL-76TD-100 freighters for various industries across the globe, include leading companies in the energy and heavy machinery sectors. In 2017, the company saw a 21% upsurge in tonnage and a 28% increase in charter flights operated for energy and heavy machinery customers, delivering different types of out-of-gauge equipment to guarantee operations or for the implementation of production facilities in developed and

emerging countries of the world. Volga-Dnepr’s unique fleet of ramp freighters, global coverage provided by its commercial offices and regional operational bases, and team of experienced and certified specialists make Volga-Dnepr Group an ideal partner to organize the transportation of project shipments, even for the most technologically-challenging cargoes ■

AIRBRIDGECARGO AIRLINES TO SET UP ITS EUROPEAN HUB AT LIEGE AIRPORT



Liege Airport and AirBridgeCargo Airlines have signed an historic lease agreement for 10 years. This arrangement will bring the scale of cooperation between two companies to the next level of development, boosting air cargo volumes of ABC to/from the airport and placing Liege Airport among the top 5 cargo airports in Europe by 2020.

The agreement comes as a logical extension of Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed between Liege Airport and Volga-Dnepr Group earlier this year during the Farnborough International Airshow 2018 in July, and will contribute to the development of the regional economy in general, creating numerous amounts of jobs and favouring growth of air cargo sector, and the airport development in particular, heating up cargo infrastructure and freight flows to/from the airport.

Under new agreement AirBridgeCargo will lease warehouse premises for the total area of 25,000 sq. m. for effective and seamless cargo operations in the airport. The investment amounts to 25 million euros and includes 2,000 sq. m. of office space to guarantee smooth daily flight management.

For Luc Partoune, CEO of Liege Airport, this agreement takes the airport into a new dimension: “We welcomed the first flights in October 2017 because

AirBridgeCargo had to reduce its presence in Amsterdam. Then we responded to their call for tenders launched earlier this year for the creation of their European hub. They liked the cargo DNA of Liege Airport. We had strong political support at both the federal and regional levels. AirBridgeCargo sees opportunities for expansion, can count on a quality workforce and rely on efficient Belgian customs. Thanks to AirBridgeCargo, we plan to reach one million metric tonnes by 2020 and become one of

the top 5 cargo airports in Europe.” For Sergey Lazarev, General Director of AirBridgeCargo, this agreement represents numerous advantages for the customers: « It's been a year since we have been operating to Liege and we are delighted to see that our partnership is reaching a new height. This step is another milestone which goes in line with the development of strategic cooperation between Liege airport and Volga-Dnepr Group, which signed MoU during FIA 2018. With the lease of dedicated

warehouse facilities for the next 10 years and ABC's intention to increase the number of weekly flights to Liege up to 30 within the next 1.5 years, AirBridgeCargo will be able to leverage growing market demand for special cargoes, especially e-commerce shipments. An agreement of this size comes with a number of benefits not only for ABC but also for our customers, who will get more frequency options and high level of service quality»■

VOLGA-DNEPR AIRLINES AMONG THE FIRST TO RESPOND TO DEVASTATING TSUNAMI AND EARTHQUAKE IN SULAWESI WITH DELIVERY OF 29 TONS OF VITAL EQUIPMENT

10/11/2018

Volga-Dnepr Airlines has delivered generators and a water purification system to Indonesia to support the international humanitarian mission dealing with the cataclysmic aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Sulawesi Island at the end of September 2018



The flight was performed by one of Volga-Dnepr Airlines' modernised IL-76TD-90VD freighters from Châlons Vatry Airport in France to the Indonesian city of Balikpapan on request of the Crisis Centre of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following their arrival in Indonesia, the generators and water purification system – weighing 29 tons in total – will be transported to the worst-affected areas. The equipment will provide much-needed electricity and clean water for the local population.



Volga-Dnepr Airlines continues to maintain its strategic focus on supporting humanitarian missions across the globe. With more than 28 years of experience in participating in international relief programmes, the airline can offer an immediate response, saving vital time in such critical situations. At the beginning of

September, Volga-Dnepr's expertise was also called upon to deliver 64 tons of food supplies and bottled water to Guam Island to help victims of Typhoon Mangkhut.

Since the 1990s, Volga-Dnepr Airlines has been responding to humanitarian and relief calls all over the world. Its experienced and qualified specialists have been able to provide timely and much-needed support to the victims of some of the most devastating disasters of the 21st century, including hurricane Katrina and Irma in the USA, Chaiten volcano Eruption in Chile, earthquakes in Haiti, Turkey, India, Japan and China and other numerous natural ca-

tastrophes in the world. Volga-Dnepr's team understands that time matters in these particular situations and provides the most effective logistics solutions for all types of cargo, from heavy machinery and helicopters for rescue operations to mobile hospitals, large volumes of water purification equipment, tents, and temperature-sensitive goods such as food supplies and pharmaceuticals.

"Our unique fleet of 12 giant An-124-100 freighters and five modernized Il-76TD-90VD give us numerous possibilities while organizing charters for humanitarian missions. These aircraft are self-sufficient in remote locations or where local infras-

tructure has been damaged, provide both nose and rear ramp loading capabilities, whilst meet all ICAO requirements for international flight operations in compliance with the latest noise and emissions standards. With its expertise and experience in dealing with charter flights, Volga-Dnepr is always among the first responders to support victims of natural disasters, allowing emergency relief management agencies and governmental organisations all over the world to deliver critically-needed cargo and supplies in what is always a significant race against time," – highlighted Konstantin Vekshin, Executive President Cargo Charter Operations, Volga-Dnepr ■

AirBridgeCargo Airlines joins International Airlines Technical Pool (IATP)



AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) has officially joined International Airlines Technical Pool (IATP), the global association representing a membership of 114 airlines and 36 service providers and original equipment manufacturers (OEM).

AirBridgeCargo's team was presented with its membership certificate during the 118th IATP Conference held in Indonesia last month. The bi-annual conference provides an excellent plat-

form for discussions on industry trends, maintenance issues, networking and collaboration on all levels.

"It is a great honor and achievement to join IATP, one of the industry's oldest associations with a more than 50-year history.

With our vast experience in oversize cargo transportation, extensive route network, and qualified team, and stocks of spare parts in several stations, we would be able to support our partners in any AOG situation, guaranteeing cost-effective and timely logistics solutions. Our global network and fleet of modern Boeing 747 freighters allow us to respond promptly to all technical challenges, including AOG-related cases, and offer a proven solution IATP members can count on," stated Sergey Lazarev, General Director of AirBridgeCargo Airlines.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Mr. San Lucktong, IATP Chairperson, warmly welcomed AirBridgeCargo to the IATP family.

"AirBridgeCargo, as well as the other five new members who joined our global organization at

the 118th Conference, will not only contribute to but will also benefit from the technical resources sharing. This will enable the expansion of support exchange among all IATP members, ensuring on-time dispatch reliability and operational safety at stations.”

Apart from other benefits IATP offers, the Association provides an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and communicate with industry peers and colleagues on hot topics and issues of vital importance.

VOLGA-DNEPR AIRLINES AND BOLLORE LOGISTICS SUPPORT HISTORY-MAKING SPACE MISSION

11/01/2018

Volga-Dnepr Airlines, the market leader of heavy and outside air cargo transportations, together with its partner Bolloré Logistics, are supporting a milestone mission for the global aerospace industry with the delivery of the first European Space Module (ESM) for the historic space program which, in 2022, will take astronauts beyond low Earth orbit.

The 14-ton module, transported in a special container to maintain precise temperature and pressure conditions, as well as 10 tons of supporting equipment, were delivered onboard one of Volga-Dnepr's Antonov 124-100 freighters from Bremen in Germany to Titusville, USA, in preparation for its installation on the next-generation Orion spacecraft and testing at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The module provides the spacecraft with propulsion, power, water and oxygen supplies as well as thermal control.

The first unmanned Orion mission is scheduled for 2020 and will take the spacecraft more than 64,000 kilometres beyond the Moon. Two years later, the first human spaceflight will transport astronauts further into space than ever before as part of the program to collect scientific data to develop the ability of humans to travel to Mars.

Konstantin Vekshin, Executive President for Cargo Charter Operations at Volga-Dnepr Airlines, commented: “It is an honour for us to be supporting such a significant and historic endeavour. Providing specialist transportation for the aerospace industry is one of Volga-Dnepr

IATP is an international association with 114 airline and 36 associate members, which was established to streamline maintenance pooling activities during AOG situations and provide much-needed support. All member airlines, maintenance, and service providers have access to joint technical resources, covering aircraft spare parts, line maintenance, ground handling equipment, aircraft recovery kits, and technical training, among other things ■

Airlines' key areas of expertise and every year we operate more than 50 flights carrying various space cargoes, including satellites, parts of spacecraft, rockets and boosters. The unique capabilities of our Antonov 124-100 and Ilyushin 76TD-90VD freighters, with their ramp loading capabilities and onboard crane systems, combined with our three decades of experience, enables our team of experts to provide safe, secure, time-saving and cost-efficient solutions for deliveries of such important and sensitive cargoes. We wish this unique, history-changing space mission every success!” ■



VOLGA-DNEPR AIRLINES' 7-HOUR AIRFREIGHT SOLUTION SAVES CUSTOMER A 20-DAY SEA JOURNEY

12/03/2018



Volga-Dnepr Airlines (VDA) and Kintetsu World Express France (KWE) have expertly orchestrated a charter flight from Paris-Vatry, France, to Damman, Saudi Arabia, transporting an 11,000 horsepower Alstom motorized pump.

The 40-ton pump, measuring 651x274x311cm, was transported onboard one of Volga-Dnepr's An-124-100 ramp aircraft just seven days after the initial charter request was received from the customer. The motorized pump will be used as a spare part to replace an unserviceable unit.

Volga-Dnepr's load planning team advised on the correct preparation of the shipment in advance of the flight date, a process which embraced not only removing sea freight packaging but also fitting shackles and eye bolts to secure the cargo during its flight. VDA used loading equipment – a rail system, extensions ramps and skate beams – as well as mobile cranes to guarantee a seamless and intact loading process at both the departure and arrival airports.

“This transportation showcases the benefits of

airfreight solutions over other logistics modes, as we were able to deliver this essential spare part back to Saudi Arabia faster than other transport companies. The whole delivery took 6 hours and 45 minutes whereas with sea freight transportation the customer would have waited 20+ days. Our experience and efficiency in handling every charter request as well as the expertise of commercial team, gives Volga-Dnepr a unique advantage in the market,” said Ekaterina Andreeva, Deputy Commercial Director, Volga-Dnepr Airlines.

In 2018, Volga-Dnepr has met demand for its specialist services from a variety of different industries, including aerospace, energy and heavy machinery sector, and the oil and gas sector, providing highly qualified expertise in handling complicated oversize equipment using its more than 28 years' experience. The highest growth this year-to-date has come from the oil and gas sector, with cargoes carried up by more than 40% compared to the same period of 2017. ■

VOLGA-DNEPR TO BASE AN ANTONOV AN-124-100 AT HOUSTON

12/18/2018



Volga-Dnepr Airlines has decided to base one of its 12 Antonov An-124-100 freighters at Houston (George Bush Intercontinental Airport) (IAH).

The airport issued this statement:

Volga-Dnepr Group announced it will open an Operations Base at George Bush Intercontinental Airport to give customers in North and South America faster and more economic access to its unique range of delivery solutions.

With the inauguration of the Group's Operations Base at the airport, it will dedicate one of its 12 Antonov An-124-100 freighter aircraft as well as crews, technical support teams and special loading equipment for unique cargoes to the Houston facility. The move will ensure the airline's customers in the Americas, including its longstanding and major clients in the oil and gas, heavy machinery, energy and aerospace sectors, will benefit from immediate local expertise and services to meet their specialist logistics requirements.

The Group has enjoyed a successful and growing partnership with Bush Airport prior to this new commitment, providing delivery services for the most challenging and complex transportation needs of companies in the region.

Located in the east cargo area at George Bush Intercontinental Airport, the new Operations Base will improve accessibility to the airport and the Group's services. It will provide unique and specialized on-site engineering solutions to enable the safe and secure transportation of heavy and outsize cargoes, using its team's expertise in delivering complex load planning and delivery solutions. The Base will be staffed by Volga-Dnepr specialists, including load planning engineers and loadmasters, operations, navigation and ground handling specialists. The base is an expansion of the Group's sales office, which was established in Houston in 2001, and will create 30 to 40 new jobs in the local area.

Volga-Dnepr Group has grown its presence in Texas

and across the North and South American markets due to the unique transportation capabilities of its outsize and super-heavy cargo operator, Volga-Dnepr Airlines, and its special fleet of Antonov An-124-100 and modernized IL-76TD-90VD ramp loading freighters. More recently, its relationship with the airport has been extended by the Boeing 747 freighter services operated to and from Houston several times a week by the Group's strategic partner, CargoLogicAir.

Konstantin Vekshin, Executive President, Charter Cargo Operations of Volga-Dnepr Group, commented: "For Volga-Dnepr Group, the choice of Houston as our Operations Base to serve customers in North and South America is a natural development of our existing relationship with the airport and another key milestone in the development of our company in the Americas market. This commitment brings us even closer to our customers geographically and enhances our ability to provide special 'out of the box' solutions which make our customers' lives easier. We feel this move will accomplish these goals and enable us to offer more economical and faster services, managed by a team of local experts.

"Our business growth in North and South America stems from our holistic approach, focused on safety, security, on-time delivery with cost-effective solutions. This is not just rhetoric, we have been demonstrating these capabilities for over 28 years by developing innovative solutions to move our customers' most complex cargoes. The infrastructure now located in Houston will also enhance Volga-Dnepr's important role in supporting humanitarian missions across the region by facilitating fast response operations to the worst-affected areas in the aftermath of natural disasters. By working in partnership with government and non-governmental organizations, we know from long experience that accelerating the response to disasters is vital to restoring stability and saving lives, and we are now better equipped to do this than ever before." ■

AIRBRIDGECARGO AIRLINES MOVES ONE STEP FURTHER WITH ITS IOT CONCEPT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNILODE AVIATION SOLUTIONS



AirBridgeCargo Airlines and Unilode Aviation Solutions, the leading global provider of outsourced Unit Load Device (ULD) management and repair solutions, have extended their ULD management partnership for the extensive usage of Transmitting Portable Electronic Devices (TPEDs) for ULDs – pallets and containers.

The equipment, which is a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE v.5.0) tracking and sensing device, will be firmly mounted to ULDs supplied and managed by Unilode and carried in the cargo compartments of AirBridgeCargo's Boeing 747 freighter fleet. The monitoring devices will be used to track ULDs, register all environmental parameters, covering such crucial factors as temperature, humidity, illumination and shock actions to guarantee 100% transparency of shipment data. In addition, AirBridgeCargo will get accurate information from Unilode about the cargo status and its location, be it in the air or on the ground (warehouse, apron).

Both companies have reached agreements on the terms of BLE v. 5.0 usage, with the main work to be completed afterwards. AirBridgeCargo Airlines and Unilode Aviation Solutions are working on the rollout, making sure all the ULDs are properly equipped with BLE v.5.0, Bluetooth readers are installed at the places of cargo movement (warehouse, ground handling premises), and dedicated IT infrastructure is set to capture signals for real-time cargo monitoring.

“We are delighted to see our partnership with Unilode progressing and embracing new areas,

such as IoT, which will not only facilitate data accuracy but also enhance digital customer experience with the provision of detailed information for each and every shipment. This is especially important for special cargo – pharmaceutical products, oversize and heavy goods, live animals, etc. With the penetration of digitalization taking place in the air cargo sector, we want to make sure that our customers get the full benefit of it, be it general cargo, abc pharma, abc XL or other specialist dedicated services.” – stated Sergey Lazarev, General Director, AirBridgeCargo Airlines.

“AirBridgeCargo Airlines is Unilode's loyal customer since 2004 and we are very pleased to work together in our digital transformation program which will enhance Unilode's ULD management with the most innovative solutions available in the market. The BLE v.5.0 device is the most cost-effective solution for the transmission of shipment parameters with its primary benefits being improved speed and greater range. Thus, it operates faster and over greater distances than previous versions of Bluetooth. Unilode and AirBridgeCargo have been improving the quality of shipment data, which provides timely and detailed information to all stakeholders in the value chain.” – said Mr. Benoît Dumont, Unilode CEO.

With this in mind, AirBridgeCargo Airlines has upgraded its online track and trace tool, introduced 24/7 Control Tower to monitor status of special cargo shipments, and reinforced its team at all levels. ■




The decision to expand the fleet of aircraft through the new 737-800BCF. Getting the first aircraft in December 2018, the second in September 2019.

A reference to the e-commerce market from China to Russia - a long-term contract has been concluded for the transport of mail from China ■



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