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Emirates SkyCargo to set up the world's largest GDP compliant air cargo hub in Dubai for global distribution of COVID-19 vaccine



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2020 has been a rather challenging year for the global Aviation Industry and it spared no one. When the Covid-19 pandemic struck throughout the world in March, it left much of the industry in a tail-spin. Find out how the UAE aviation industry has been coping with the COVID19 pandemic [on page 3](#)



Emirates SkyCargo is stepping up its readiness to handle the logistical complexities of distributing a potential COVID-19 vaccine globally by creating the world's first dedicated airside cargo hub for the vaccine in Dubai. The air cargo carrier is taking a global leadership position by announcing that it will be re-opening its Emirates SkyCentral DWC cargo terminal in Dubai South to serve as a dedicated anchor hub for cold chain storage and distribution of the vaccine.

Watch a video about Emirates SkyCargo setting up the world's largest GDP compliant airside hub for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

The freight division of Emirates has also set up a dedicated rapid response team to coordinate requests from the various

partners involved in the international vaccine distribution ecosystem and to streamline the carrier's response to vaccine transportation requests.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Emirates Chairman and Chief Executive said: "Dubai is well positioned to serve as a gateway and distribution hub for COVID-19 vaccines to the rest of the world. We have the infrastructure and logistics connections, and a geographic location that puts markets representing more than two-thirds of the world's population within an 8-hour flying radius. Over the years, through our continuous investment in capabilities and processes for the transport of temperature sensitive pharmaceuticals, Emirates SkyCargo has managed to position Dubai amongst major global pharmaceutical customers as





> the year-round preferred point of transit for their valuable cargo. Setting up a dedicated airside hub for COVID-19 vaccines is a keystone project harnessing our network, reach and competencies to positively impact the lives of people around the world.”

World’s first dedicated airside hub for COVID-19 vaccine

Emirates SkyCargo’s vaccine hub in Dubai South will be the largest dedicated airside facility in the world for COVID-19 vaccines. The Dubai hub will allow the air cargo carrier to fly in vaccines from manufacturing sites globally, store and prepare shipments for regional and global distribution.

Emirates SkyCentral DWC has over 4,000 square metres of temperature controlled GDP certified dedicated pharma storage area allowing for large scale storage and distribution of the potential COVID-19 vaccines. Overall, it is estimated that the facility can hold around 10 million vials of vaccine at a 2-8 degrees Celsius temperature range at any one point of time.

The state of the art infrastructure at Emirates SkyCentral DWC is also complemented by one of the world’s largest fleet of Cool Dollys helping protect temperature sensitive cargo during transit between the aircraft and cargo terminal. Additionally, the availability of a large number of temperature controlled trucking docks and the proximity of the terminal to the aircraft parking gates will en-

sure rapid and efficient clearance of cargo for further distribution.

In addition to cold storage, Emirates SkyCargo will also offer dedicated zones for value-added services such as re-icing and repackaging of vaccines for global distribution for its customers.

The extensive size of the facility, which can potentially handle millions of vaccine doses, along with the creation of a dedicated team to handle and execute requests will allow Emirates SkyCargo to be able to effectively handle the large volume of time critical requests for cross-border vaccine movement that will follow the successful introduction of a vaccine.

Through a combination of scheduled and charter flights, the cargo carrier will then be able to fly the vaccines to markets where they will be most needed.

Emirates’ pharma transportation capabilities

Emirates SkyCargo is harnessing decades of experience gained from transporting temperature controlled pharmaceutical products and vaccines for global manufacturers to develop innovative solutions that will meet the challenge of distributing a potential COVID-19 vaccine globally within a short timeframe.

Since 2016, the air cargo carrier has invested substantially in its capabilities for the transportation of temperature sensitive pharmaceuticals. This included the introduction of a specialised prod-

uct – Emirates Pharma - and the development of dedicated GDP certified ‘fit for purpose’ infrastructure pharma both at Dubai as well as at major origin and destination points under its pharma corridors programme that currently covers more than 30 cities. Emirates SkyCargo has moved more than a quarter million tonnes of pharmaceutical cargo in the last four years.

With its fleet of modern and efficient all wide-body aircraft and a network that currently spans more than 130 destinations across six continents, combined with the strategic geographic location of its Dubai hub, Emirates SkyCargo will be able to rapidly move vaccine shipments from manufacturing sites to the vaccine hub and then onwards to the rest of the world on a combination of scheduled and passenger flights.

Over the last few months, however, Emirates SkyCargo has worked on restoring its worldwide network and cargo connectivity with flight services restored to 75 destinations by May, 100 by July and nearly 135 destinations by early October. Emirates SkyCargo’s network covers all major pharmaceutical clusters and manufacturing locations, facilitating the eventual transportation of the COVID-19 vaccine once manufacturing commences.

<https://www.emirates.com/media-centre/covid-19-response-emirates-sky-cargo-to-set-up-the-worlds-largest-gdp-compliant-air-cargo-hub-in-dubai-for-global-distribution-of-covid-19-vaccine/>

How UAE's business aviation sector is coping with Covid-19



During the end of last year, Ali Ahmed Alnaqbi, founding and executive chairman of the Middle East and North Africa Business Aviation Association predicted that in 2020 the business aviation sector in the Middle East and North Africa region, which includes the United Arab Emirates, would achieve a growth rate of around 9%, higher than the global growth estimate of 4 – 6%, with the UAE as the sector leader in the region.

“2020 will be a milestone in the history of business aviation and private aviation in the Middle East region in general, and the UAE in particular,” Alnaqbi said back in December 2019.

Alnaqbi's prediction of a historic year for business aviation wasn't wrong, but it has been for reasons no one could have ever foreseen. When the Covid-19 pandemic struck throughout the world in March, it left much of the industry in a tailspin. But despite the fallout that most in the industry have felt since the chaotic arrival of Coronavirus, many business aviation companies in the UAE are confident that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will recover strongly. Reports of flights at almost 50% ahead of normal in August 2020 show that the recovery trend is well-established.

“Currently, many countries still have travel restrictions in place due to Covid-19. However, we have witnessed in-

creasing movements to India, Maldives and Europe,” explains Holger Ostheimer, managing director, DC Aviation Al-Futtaim. “They are primarily traveling for holidays, repatriation and business.”

“MENA is an interesting region with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt and others being the busiest markets,” notes Issa Zuriqi, commercial director at business aviation services and FBO-provider, Hadid. “Being headquartered in Dubai, we would note that the busiest regions within the country are Dubai and Abu Dhabi, which are major destinations for trade, business and tourism.

“Dubai International Airport is amongst the world's busiest airports in terms of passenger traffic and air freight movements while Abu Dhabi International Airport is an increasingly popular hub for commercial aviation activities.”

Year-round destination

Many are unaware that the UAE is a year-round destination, with numerous travelers visiting in the hottest months for both business and tourism.

“Over the years and prior to Covid-19, year in, year out, there has been an increase in business aviation activities from late August to late April,” explains Zuriqi. “Being a provider of services to a diverse international clientele, we see a strong

surge in leisure enquiries towards major events hosted in Dubai.”

“However, ongoing restrictions with regards to Covid-19 testing are deterring tourists from traveling and the postponement of Expo 2020 Dubai has meant a downturn in expected flight numbers to the region this year,” adds Ostheimer. “Dubai International Airport is the biggest hub for business aviation. However, we are seeing strong interest in Al Maktoum International Airport because of its strategic location between Dubai and Abu Dhabi and because it has less traffic and less slot restrictions,” says Zuriqi.

“Apart from being home to a number of fixed-based operators, Al Maktoum Airport is also home to the Mohammed Bin Rashid Aerospace Hub, which was purpose-built to cater for private jets of all types. Interestingly, Al Bateen Airport is one to watch with its significant increase in flights,” he adds.

Reshaping travel

Covid-19 is without doubt reshaping the way people travel and this has brought new opportunities for business and private aviation in the UAE. “Passengers who generally travel in first and business class are now looking to charter aircraft to avoid busy airports and being stuck on an aircraft with other people,” says Ostheimer. “We are also seeing new enquiries for



aircraft purchases. Some high-net-worth individuals are seriously looking to buy their own aircraft, and have it leased out for charter when they are not using it.”

With an increase in private jet enquires, it's important to know what to remember

when planning a trip to the UAE. “Currently for business aviation there are no requirements for passengers entering other than having a valid visa and a valid negative Covid-19 test,” says Ostheimer. “Passengers from 30 countries require a Covid-19 test on arrival and they are re-

quired to quarantine until they receive their test results. Crew are only required to fill a declaration and to have their temperature taken.”

A strong future



When looking towards the future of business aviation in the UAE, there's a sense of optimism among operators despite how the year has unfolded so far.

“It is no secret that Covid-19 has been one of the worst crises to hit global aviation. However, throughout the pandemic, business aviation continued to provide important services to communities such as repatriations and the transportation of health workers and critical medical supplies. Business aviation operations are adaptable and quicker off the ground. By and large, we feel that business aviation has been able to leverage the flexibility of its operations and personalized approach,” explains Zuriqi.

Ostheimer agrees, “While Covid-19 has had the commercial aviation industry in a tailspin, private and business aviation are showing signs of a faster recovery. The fact that people are seriously looking at business aviation as a viable mode of transportation is an encouraging sign for us.”

“The pandemic quickly changed aviation in unforeseen and unprecedented ways, driving non-stop demand for flight permits and planning for alternative routes due the changes in country specific restrictions and regulations,” says Zuriqi. “As providers of aircraft charter services, we have found that there is an increase in the volume of new clients who had not previously accessed private flights.

“Some operators are reporting a better summer season in 2020 compared the same period last year. This can be attributed to private aviation's higher sense of safety and service efficiency, along with high-net-worth clients having new cost and value justifications.

“We believe the UAE will be the highest contributor in terms of business aviation and logistics movements for the coming years,” adds Zuriqi. “The MEBAA Show is fast approaching and we, like many of our peers, feel it is an excellent platform for the aviation community to discuss realities of the industry, how to overcome the immediate challenges and how organizations can synergize to contribute to the recovery of the industry globally.”

Business aviation operators are surprisingly optimistic about the future with many believing they will emerge stronger from the Covid-19 pandemic. Zuriqi says, “Despite the pandemic-related challenges, business aviation is set to lead the recovery of the aviation industry. Hadid works closely with operators. They are optimistic about the future, especially with the increase of aircraft registrations, the prioritizing of safe practices, the increase in volume of new users of private aircraft and the continued infrastructure expansion and developments to support the Expo.

“The overall outlook for business aviation in the UAE is positive, despite the impact of the pandemic. The business and private aviation industry is very niche, it caters to 1% of ultra-high-net-worth individuals in the world. There will always be aircraft that need management, maintenance or even hangarage and require our services and expertise. Dubai will continue to attract high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth individuals who represent a certain level of activity in terms of aircraft ownership or private-jet movements.

“As Shekih Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has said himself, we are not building the largest airports in the world, we are building the aviation capital of the world. It is clear the growth ambitions of the authorities and leadership alike fully support the growth of business aviation in the UAE.”

<https://www.businessairportinternational.com/features/how-the-united-arab-emirates-is-coping-with-covid-19.html>

New environment expo to feature at World Future Energy Summit 2021



As climate change continues to be one of the greatest challenges facing mankind today, and in light of research revealing a fast-emerging market opportunity valued at US\$7.1 trillion, the World Future Energy Summit has announced the introduction of a new Climate and Environment Expo & Forum, hosted in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA. E.

The platform is dedicated to the climate change adaptation and resilience market.

To be held from 5 to 7 April 2021 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, ADNEC, the Climate and Environment Expo & Forum will bring together thought leaders, technology providers, policymakers, researchers, and innovators responsible for developing

the necessary frameworks to mitigate climate change challenges around the planet. The event will showcase the latest advancements, fresh perspectives, and best practice to help achieve local and global climate resilience.

The Climate and Environment Forum & Expo is dedicated to driving the country's sustainable development in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, maintaining the nation's position as a global leader of climate and environmental action, and tackling the global-to-local issues of climate change.

Fahed Al Hammadi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for the Green Development and Climate Change Sector at MOCCA. E, said, “The introduction of the Climate and Environment Expo & Forum is a testament to the UAE's

continued prominent role in the global conversation on climate change, climate resilience, and sustainable development.”

He added, “Climate change remains an existential threat to the continuity of life on planet Earth. Convening top government representatives and decision makers of the world to address the issue with all its economic, social, and environmental dimensions represents one step further in building a common framework for a climate-resilient world and a sustainable future.”

“As the world's leading event and marketplace for future energy, cleantech, and sustainability, we felt it was an essential evolution to introduce a dedicated forum and expo to address climate change within the World Future Energy Summit,” said Grant Tuchten,

Group Event Director – World Future Energy Summit.

As climate change poses significant risks to economies, communities, and the natural environment worldwide, there is a substantial market opportunity emerging for adaptation and resilience companies to help investors, businesses, and government agencies around the world to measure and manage these risks, and to move towards a more sustainable future.

To take a closer look at this market opportunity, the World Future Energy Summit will run a Climate & Environment Webinar on 20th of January 2021. Focused on Stimulating Economies: Low Carbon is ‘Business as Usual’, the webinar will host selected government and industry experts that will examine the opportunities brought about by the shift towards a low carbon economy.

Faced with real and imminent risk, governments and communities have the ability to quickly adapt for the greater good, and this should give us hope for a similar outcome with respect to tackling the urgent reality of climate change. The current level of global coordination is proof that societies can unite to address a common cause -- a learning process which can be beneficial in implementing decisions that are in favour of climate action. As the world’s leading policymakers and officials convene to attend the annual World Future Energy Summit, we are presented with the prospect of real progress to accelerate a collective global response to the climate crisis.

In 2019, climate change disasters cost the world more than US\$150 billion, and their frequency is only expected to increase in 2020. While the global economic cost of fossil-fuelled air pollution amounted to

US\$2.9 trillion in 2018 (3.3 per cent of global GDP), it is now costing us US\$8 billion every day.

According to the Global Commission on Adaptation, GCA, report, investing US\$1.8 trillion globally from 2020 to 2030 in the climate change adaptation market could bring a worldwide return of US\$7.1 trillion in net benefits. The report highlights five specific areas where investment is needed most urgently: early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, water resources, dry land agriculture, and mangrove protection, all of which will form the key pillars of the new Climate and Environment Expo & Forum agenda.

<https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302887190>



ADNOC TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN HYDROGEN

Leveraging existing strengths to capitalize on emerging demand

EXISTING STRENGTHS	POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES	HYDROGEN DRIVERS
 Growing hydrogen portfolio	 International value chains	 Emerging demand
 Attractive carbon capture position	 UAE hydrogen ecosystem	 Competitive clean fuel
 Advantaged infrastructure and resources	 Technology-driven partnerships	 Maximizing value from UAE natural resources

UAE extends coronavirus stimulus package for six months to end-June 2021



Central bank governor announces new move to 'shield the UAE economy from the impact of the pandemic'

The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) on Monday announced the extension of its economic stimulus package - the Targeted Economic Support Scheme (TESS) - by six months until the end of June next year.

The scheme was launched by the CBUAE in March to support the UAE's economy during the Covid-19 pandemic, through a range of integrated relief measures to the banking sector related to funding, liquidity, lending and capital.

Under this extension, the CBUAE will extend the duration of the zero cost facility (ZCF) of AED50 billion (\$13.5 billion), which benefits retail and corporate banking customers and facilitates liquidity management for banks through collateralised funding at zero cost, for an additional period of six months, state news agency WAM reported.

Starting from January 1, banks and finance companies participating in the TESS initiative will be able to provide new loans and facilities to customers negatively affected by the pandemic, WAM added.

Abdulhamid M Saeed Alahmadi, governor of the Central Bank of the UAE, said: "The

central bank remains committed to supporting the financial system of the UAE by taking the required measures to accelerate economic recovery from Covid-19 repercussions. The extension of applicability period of the TESS will provide relief for retail, small and medium sized enterprises, and corporate banking customers.

"We believe that this initiative will shield the economy from the impact of the pandemic and place us in an ideal position to recover, once the pandemic is over."

To date, the TESS loan deferral programme has benefited more than 310,000 retail customers, nearly 10,000 small and medium sized enterprises, and more than 1,500 private sector corporates.

The package of support was launched in March as part of an AED100 billion scheme.

The TESS update comes as business conditions deteriorated in the UAE in September amid further job losses and concerns over renewed lockdowns.

The outlook among UAE businesses for the next 12 months was also at a record low, with fears over the persistence of the pandemic hurting future activity.

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/banking-finance/454703-uae-extends-coronavirus-stimulus-package-for-six-months-to-end-june-2021>



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Zayed Sustainability Prize opens submissions for 2022. #WamNews



Zayed Sustainability Prize opens submissions for 2022
ABU DHABI, 18th November, 2020 (WAM) -- The Zayed Sustainability Prize has officially announced that the 2022 edition is now open for submissions ...
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.@Emirates crowned Best Airline and Best Long-Haul Airline at leading UK travel awards 2020 mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2020/N...



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Hend Al Otaiba هند مانع العتيبة @hend_mana

HE Ahmed Al Sayegh at the G20 press briefing: We have worked closely with our partners to identify priority issues that the UAE would champion in its #G20 engagements – issues that matter to the #UAE, GCC, and many smaller countries.



Opening Statement
Thank you all very much for joining this discussion today.
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Publisher
Embassy of the
United Arab Emirates
Hiroshimastr. 18-20
D-10785 Berlin

Telefon: + 49 (0)3051651451
www.uae-embassy.ae

 @uaeinberlin
 @uaeinberlin
 @uaeinberlin

Ghorfa Arab-German Chamber
of Commerce and Industry e.V.
Garnisonkirchplatz 1
D-10178 Berlin

Telefon: + 49 (0)30278907-0
www.ghorfa.de

 @Ghorfa_Germany
 @Ghorfa
 @Ghorfa

Ambassador
H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama

Secretary General
Abdulaziz Al-Mikhlaifi

Editor
Khalfan Al Matrooshi
Ahmed Shalaby

Layout:
Fadhil Al-Romaima