

# NEWSLETTER

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1. How wind power could be the future of cargo shipping
2. Damage revealed after a cargo ship runs aground
3. Air freight demand largely unfazed by ILA port strike
4. Shanghai ports to break 50 million container barrier, set global shipping record in 2024
5. C919 manufacturer sets up shop in Singapore as China eyes Southeast Asia



# How wind power could be the future of cargo shipping



An experimental wind-powered cargo ship has arrived in Southampton to undergo sea trials.

The 5,000-tonne cargo carrier, Pacific Grebe, has been retrofitted with a new 20-metre (65ft) wing sail to allow it to be powered by wind.

Scientists from the University of Southampton are coordinating controlled sea trials to assess the ship's performance across different conditions in UK waters.

Dr Joseph Banks, from the university's Marine and Maritime Institute, said the technology could be the "key component" in the transition to zero-carbon shipping.

The team behind the FastRig retractable test sail say the design could make large vessels less environmentally damaging by cutting carbon emissions by up to a third.

International shipping is estimated to be responsible for 837 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually - or 2.1% of total global emissions. Pacific Grebe's sea trials are intended to compare the predicted saving in fuel on longer journeys with real-world data. Dr Banks said: "Fitting 21st Century autonomous sails to commercial ships could immediately reduce energy demands and fuel consumption, lower costs, and, importantly, cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions." The technology was developed by Smart Green Shipping, with funding provided by the UK government.

The Department for Transport estimates up to 40,000 ships - mainly tankers and bulk carriers - could be suitable for wind power.

## Damage revealed after a cargo ship runs aground



A cargo ship which ran aground on a sandbank off the Isle of Wight has suffered "low-key" damage, an inspection has revealed.

One Maneuver got stuck on Bramble Bank as it began its journey to Rotterdam after setting off from Southampton on Tuesday at about 15:00 BST. ABP, the owner of Port of Southampton, said the bright pink ship, carrying containers, ended up on the bank of sand after losing power.

The vessel's owner said its water ballast tank, which helps it stay balanced, had suffered a breach in the incident.

Mark Clark, a spokesman for the ship's owner Mitsui OSK, said it would probably need minor repairs.

## Air freight demand largely unfazed by ILA port strike

Logistics cos Air freight demand is returning to seasonally-adjusted norms despite the short-lived-International Longshoremen's Association strike spurring cargo backlog earlier this month.

Since the potential for a strike was so widely publicized, many companies took early action to avoid possible disruptions, Marc Iampieri, global co-leader of the logistics and transportation practice at AlixPartners, told Supply Chain Dive.



Meanwhile, some shippers, like those handling perishable goods, shifted from ocean freight to air transport in the days leading up to the strike, said Balika Sonthalia, senior partner and practice lead for Kearney's strategic operation practice in the Americas.

Other shippers waited to see how long the strike would last before shifting to air cargo as an alternative mode, said Brian Bourke, global chief commercial officer at Seko Logistics.

Although the ports quickly reopened following a tentative wage agreement and extension of master contract negotiations, the three-day work stoppage did leave ripple effects, especially for ocean shippers.

The Port of Savannah, for instance, will need extra time to "restore full fluidity," as the strike added to the backlog spurred by Hurricane Helene's impact in September, according to an Oct. 15 market update from Freightos.



# Shanghai ports to break 50 million container barrier, set global shipping record in 2024



Container ports in Shanghai are set to handle record cargo volumes this year, with the city pledging to continue liberalising its shipping industry to play a world-leading role.

These developments come amid a slowdown in China's exports, which have fallen for four straight months, while the outlook for the shipping industry remains clouded by uncertainties because of heightened geopolitical tensions and concerns about recession in some parts of the global economy.

Mayor Gong Zheng told the North Bund Forum, a shipping industry -conference, on Tuesday that Shanghai would handle more than 50 million 20-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers this year, enough to help the city retain its crown as the world's No. 1 container port..

# C919 manufacturer sets up shop in Singapore as China eyes Southeast Asia

China's leading aircraft manufacturer opened an Asia-Pacific office in Singapore this week, marking a significant step toward challenging Boeing and Airbus in the international aviation market.



It is hoped the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (Comac) office would become a launch pad for China's home-grown C919 narrowbody airliner and its ARJ21 regional jet in Southeast Asia.

Also on Tuesday, an ARJ21 belonging to Indonesian airline TransNusa completed its maiden 2,700km (1,678 mile) flight between Manado in Indonesia and the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, which marked the longest commercial route for China's home-grown regional aircraft.



## **CONTACT US**

**TEL: +86-21-32506989 FAX: +86-21-32506989**

**E-MAIL: [MARKETING@SHA.PREMIERE- LOGISTICS.COM](mailto:MARKETING@SHA.PREMIERE-LOGISTICS.COM)**

**WEBSITE: [www.premiere-logistics.info](http://www.premiere-logistics.info)**

**ADDRESS: RM. 903/904, BUILDING B, NO. 28 XUANHUA RD. CHANGNING DISTRICT,  
SHANGHAI, 200050, CHINA**