

NEWSLETTER

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Zurich Airport extends dnata's ground handling license

Ground handler dnata has been re-awarded its license to provide services - including cargo handling - at Zurich Airport.

The handler said that it currently serves 40 passenger and cargo airlines at the airport, handling over 35 aircraft turnarounds and 150 tonnes of cargo every day.



The company added that it recently announced it would boost its cargo handling capacity at Zurich by over 50% as it plans to operate a new 9,500 sq m warehouse facility as the sole occupant.

The facility is already under construction and expected to open in early 2027.

Willy Ruf, dnata Switzerland's managing director, said: "The renewal of our license is a clear vote of confidence in our team, highlighting our reliability and commitment to service excellence. We will continue to invest in our people, infrastructure and equipment to deliver best-in-class services to our customers."

As well as investing in a new cargo facility at the airport, dnata recently rolled out its digital cargo management system, One Cargo, which automates key business and operational functions, including safety and quality monitoring, reporting and ULD management, with an integrated, cloud-based platform.

Air cargo demand and rates stable after LNY peaks and troughs

Airfreight demand and rates have stabilised over the last couple of weeks following the highs and lows caused by the Lunar New Year holiday period and uncertainty around the impact of tariffs.

Air cargo analyst WorldACD said its latest figures showed a "flat trend" in rates and demand compared with recent weeks, while the two were a little higher than this time last year.

According to the WorldACD database, air cargo demand was flat week-on-week in the week running to March 9, while it was up 2% compared with a year ago.

The average worldwide average rate - spot and contract - for the week stood at \$2.33 per kg, compared with \$2.31 per kg a week earlier and \$2.23 last year.

The data provider said that chargeable weight flown from Asia Pacific origins regained a further 5% week on week "taking them back up close to their levels in mid-January, just before the peaks and troughs of the Lunar New Year (LNY) period".



New carrier Hungary Airlines selects Hactl for Hong Kong flights



Recently launched Hungary Airlines has selected Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (Hactl) to provide handling services on its new freighter operation to the Asian hub.

The new service was launched this year and operates between Budapest Airport and Hong Kong using a 62-tonne capacity Airbus A330-200 freighter.

The new contract is Hactl's first of the year and the handler said that the flights would prove popular for e-commerce volumes.

Hactl pointed out that Budapest is a growing e-commerce hub for eastern Europe.

"Hungary Airlines is strategically placed to capitalise on the airport's potential, using its new Hong Kong flights as a link between Greater China and the European Union," the handler said in a press release.

"As more aircraft are added to the Hungary Airlines fleet, the carrier plans to add services to the US and Middle East markets."

Hactl chief executive Wilson Kwong added: "We welcome Hungary Airlines to the Hactl carrier family; their new services further enhance Hactl's global connectivity."

Hong Kong International cargo volumes continue to improve

Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) saw its cargo volumes grow again in January after a strong 2024 and the start-up of its three-runway system.

The world's busiest cargo airport saw its cargo volumes in January increase by 4.1% year on year to 394,000 tonnes.

All cargo sectors saw positive growth, with transshipments recording the highest increase at 12.2%.

“Cargo traffic to and from the Middle East, Europe and Australasia grew the most among key trading regions during the month,” the airport said.



The airport would have also benefitted from a ramp up in cargo volumes ahead of factory closures for the Lunar New Year holiday, which fell earlier this year than it did in 2024.

Last year, the airport saw its cargo volumes increase by 14% year on year to 4.9m tonnes, fuelled by rapid growth in e-commerce demand.

This year air cargo volume growth is expected to moderate - IATA is predicting an increase of around 5.8% industry wide. However, there are concerns that US moves to add new tariffs on goods from China and in the future end duty-free exemption for e-commerce shipments could have a negative impact on the demand outlook

Plans revealed for new cargo terminal at Bangalore International

Menzies Aviation and Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) have unveiled plans to develop a new 245,000 sq ft greenfield domestic cargo terminal at the airport.

The new facility at Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru will have a maximum handling capacity of 360,000 tonnes with space to handle up to 42 trucks simultaneously and eight floor-level weighted scales for accurate cargo weight and volume verification.



”It will support a wide variety of airfreight commodities and incorporates advanced technology, specialised storage facilities, and sustainable design principles to deliver seamless handling while accommodating future growth in cargo demand,” Menzies said in a press release.

The cargo handler added that the facility will be built in line with Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)

standards and will incorporate sustainable design elements such as skylights, enhanced ventilation for optimal air quality, water conservation measures, efficient waste management systems, and energy-efficient technologies.

.Charles Wyley, Menzies executive vice president, Middle East, Africa & Asia, said: “Our new greenfield domestic cargo terminal at Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (BLR) is a major step forward in our commitment to delivering efficient, reliable and future-ready logistics solutions.



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