



# AIRLIFT WORLD

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*Dear Friends!*

*From all of us here at NIC we sincerely wish you  
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*We wish you continuous success in business and that all  
your ideas and ambitions undertakings become true.*

*Let the New Year bring you plenty of pleasant  
surprises and rewards, both financial and emotional!*

*We wish happiness and prosperity for you and  
your loved ones!*

*With best wishes and warm regards,  
NIC Insurance Company*

## VOLGA-DNEPR GULF SIGNS AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

12.06.2016



**Volga-Dnepr Gulf (VD Gulf) has been approved as the sole base Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) provider for all aircraft registered in Georgia for a minimum of two years as part of a cooperation agreement with the Georgian Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) that also includes providing aviation technical training for young people to increase the country's expertise in the MRO sector.**

The co-operation agreement was formalised during a two-day meeting between Mikhail Khoroshaev, Director General of Volga-Dnepr Gulf and top Georgian government officials responsible for the aviation sector. The Georgian delegation was led by the Director of the Georgian Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Guram Jalaghonia.

As part of its strategy to develop a growing pool of aviation technical experts, VD Gulf will deliver on-the-job and classroom training for a number of Georgian aviation technicians to familiarise them with selected aircraft types. The Georgian trainees will work alongside VD Gulf's MRO experts under the supervision of a dedicated VD Gulf trainer.

In addition to becoming the first MRO service provider approved to provide base maintenance for Georgian-registered aircraft, the Georgian Civil Aviation Authority has confirmed that VD Gulf will also be the only organisation with a

Georgian license for any aircraft base maintenance outside of Georgia. In the coming year, Volga-Dnepr Gulf expects to complete several Boeing 747 heavy maintenance checks as part of this arrangement.

Mikhail Khoroshaev said: "This is a significant milestone for us. We are committed to supporting the Georgian government's ambition to create a talented workforce of MRO specialists so that ultimately young Georgians will be able to take over the task of maintaining western aircraft registered and operating in Georgia by themselves."

Established in 1996, VD Gulf has built a strong reputation for the quality of its aircraft maintenance services and the professionalism of its technical personnel. Its 22,000 sq. mt. MRO hangar facility in Sharjah, UAE, was commissioned in the first quarter of 2013 and allows for the concurrent accommodation of six narrow-body aircraft or two Boeing 747-size wide-body aircraft. The hangar is fully-equipped with all the necessary tools to perform heavy base maintenance together with the required back shops and incorporates a high-performance ventilation and air conditioning system. It holds approvals from EASA and other authorities for line and base maintenance operations, enabling VD Gulf to provide MRO services for Boeing 747-400, 737CL, 737NG, and Airbus A320 Family aircraft ■

## VD GULF IS REACHING AFRICAN REGION BY PERFORMING AZMAN AIR MAINTENANCE

11.24.2016

One of the fast growing Nigerian airlines, Azman Air, has selected VD Gulf to perform maintenance work on one of its Boeing 737CL fleet. Founded in 2010, Azman Air is a wholly owned Nigerian airline operating scheduled passenger services from its main base in Kano Nigeria. Azman Air now flies to five destinations in Nigeria and plans to commence its international operations are underway.

The two companies created the joint venture in the scope of maintenance work that will be performed by VD Gulf includes heavy "C" check, major modifications and accomplishment of AD/SB. Several components will also be repaired during the lay over period including additional work on the engines.

Managing Director of VD Gulf Victor Sherin said: "As aviation is key for Africa's development, we at VD Gulf see an opportunity to serve African airlines with efficient and value-for-money solutions. We are working closely with Azman Air as we see this



airline, run by professionals, will be a success story for the Nigerian aviation sector. We recognize Azman as our key partner in the West Africa region" ■

## OPENING NEW HORIZONS : VD GULF AT MRO EUROPE 2016

11.21.2016

VD Gulf participated in the leading European aviation exhibition and conference – MRO Europe 2016, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands during 18th -20th October 2016.



Organized by Aviation Week, every year MRO Europe attracts key stakeholders from the aviation industry: airlines, suppliers, OEMs, regulators, lessors and industry experts. This year there were 200+ exhibitors and 5,000+ attendees from over 80 countries.

The impressive VD Gulf appearance at the show attracted many airline visitors and customers. VD Gulf stand was used as a platform for Sales and Management team to demonstrate VD Gulf's capability and expertise. More than 350 visitors from the industry visited the VD Gulf stand. Continuous high level meetings were held with both new and current customers, aircraft manufacturers, suppliers, equipment manufacturers, aviation media personnel and aspiring candidates who wish to join VD Gulf.

The nine-strong VD Gulf team was led by the Director General Mr. Mikhail Khoroshaev.

Mikhail Khoroshaev, Director General of VD Gulf said, "The presence of VD Gulf at the exhibition has shown our wide and diverse capability to the wider European MRO market. Highly energetic and motivated VD Gulf team represented the company with professionalism and high competence. I am confident this will be the beginning of a new horizon for VD Gulf." ■

## VOLGA-DNEPR GROUP LOOKS FORWARD TO A 'NEW CHAPTER' OF GLOBAL AN-124 OPERATIONS

11.19.2016



**Volga-Dnepr Group has confirmed that its Ruslan International An-124-100 joint venture with Antonov Airlines is to end on 31 December 2016.**

The two companies created the joint venture in 2006 to jointly market their combined An-124-100 fleets, with the aim of improving availability of the unique ramp loading cargo aircraft for customers all over the world. As the major shareholder in Ruslan International and as the operator of the world's largest An-124 fleet, Volga-Dnepr has the full capability to continue to support all existing customer contractual obligations. Volga-Dnepr Group's business collaboration with Antonov will continue for the technical aspects of airworthiness and flight safety support of its An-124-100 fleet.

Commenting on the decision, Tatyana Arslanova, Vice President Strategic Management and Charter Cargo Operations of Volga-Dnepr Group, said: "Our joint venture with Antonov Airlines has enjoyed 10 fruitful years and during this time we have been able to ensure our global customers have benefited from the unique operating

capabilities of the An-124 whenever and wherever they have needed them. With the world's largest fleet of An-124 freighters, Volga-Dnepr is committed to maintaining this capability for our customers with our own services, supported by our worldwide offices."

Dennis Gliznoutsa, Vice President, Development & Special Projects at Volga-Dnepr, added: "Volga-Dnepr is a private Group of companies and a commercial enterprise that is proud to support major customers in industries across the globe. We are free to take commercial decisions that are in the best interests of our Group and our customers and this represents a new and exciting chapter for Volga-Dnepr Group as we continue to build upon the reputation we have earned for service quality and reliability over more than 26 years.

"We have the advantage of the experience we gained from the end of our An-124 joint venture with HeavyLift Cargo Airlines in 2001, and the subsequent growth of our outsize and heavy-weight cargo business in the international market. We emerged from that JV stronger and

now, 15 years later, we will do so again. We now have an even more diverse and capable product offering for our customers under our 'Cargo Supermarket' concept, which combines our growing An-124, IL-76TD-90VD, Boeing 747 and 737 freighter fleet and logistics services. We know our customers highly value the capability of our fleet and the outstanding expertise of our people and they have confidence in our Group of

companies as a unique provider of transportation and logistics solutions that are pivotal to the success of projects, supply chains and customers all over the world.

"We wish to publicly thank Antonov Airlines for their partnership over the past decade and we will continue to collaborate in regards to the technical aspects of our An-124 fleet" ■

## 2016 IS ALREADY ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR AIRBRIDGECARGO

11.16.2016



**2016 is already a record-breaking year for AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) following a further 30% year-on-year growth in tonnage in October to 57,608 tonnes.**

With two months of the year still to go, ABC has achieved its thirteenth consecutive year of growth. In the 10 months ended 30 October 2016, the airline carried 498,177 tonnes across its growing international route network, a rise of 29% over the same period in 2015. Last year, the airline set a record of 483,000 tonnes flown.

Robert van de Weg, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing at Volga-Dnepr Group, ABC's parent company, said: "Our continued strong growth is based on staying close to our customers and ensuring we support them with cargo capacity when and where they most need it. In such a challenging air cargo market, it is important to

earn customer trust in the quality and reliability of your service and to demonstrate the ability to provide responsive solutions – now increasingly for special cargo categories like pharmaceuticals and oversized cargo."

The new record is based on tonnage flown onboard AirBridgeCargo's own Boeing 747 cargo fleet and on ACMI partner aircraft.

2016 has seen further expansion of the airline's cargo network with new routes to meet the requirements of its global customers. A new Houston-Abu Dhabi operation was followed by the introduction of all-cargo services connecting ABC's global hub in Moscow with Chongqing in China, Phnom Penh in Cambodia, Seattle in the U.S, Heathrow in the United Kingdom and, most recently, Oslo, Norway, to serve the country's thriving market for salmon exports.

In September, AirBridgeCargo took delivery of its ninth new Boeing 747-8 Freighter, taking its total fleet to 16 747Fs. This latest aircraft was the fifth new 747-8F to join the fleet of Volga-Dnepr Group since it confirmed an order with Boeing for 20 more 747-8Fs in July. Through its hub in

Moscow, ABC is able to connect origin and destination points across its network serving Europe, Russia, Scandinavia, North America, the Middle East and Asia Pacific within a 48-hour cargo delivery time, including cargo handling. ■

## AIRBRIDGECARGO FLIES IN TO SUPPORT NORWAY'S SALMON EXPORTS AND OIL&GAS INDUSTRY

11.15.2016



**AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) is to commence twice-weekly Boeing 747 freighter operations from Oslo in support of Norway's thriving seafood export market and the country's oil&gas industry.**

Global demand for Norwegian seafood, and especially salmon, continues to make a significant and growing contribution to the country's economy. Norway now exports 220,000 tonnes of seafood a year, 600 tonnes a day, using air cargo services to Asia and North America. By offering over 100 tonnes of cargo capacity per flight, ABC's new Tuesday and Friday services ex Oslo will enable Norwegian exporters to seamlessly access the airline's network in both North America and Asia Pacific via its hub in Moscow.

Georges Biwer, Vice President EMEA, at AirBridgeCargo, said: "Our strategy is to always stay close to our customers and to listen to their

requirements to ensure we are operating where they want us to be. Oslo is the perfect example of this level of customer support. Norwegian salmon is preferred by consumers all over the world and exporters rely on the speed and reliability of air cargo to ensure their seafood is of the highest quality when it reaches their customers. The fast connections and on-time performance ABC offers via its Moscow Sheremetyevo hub, as well as the temperature-control capabilities of our modern Boeing 747-8F fleet, means we can offer exporters the network and service options they need to continue to grow their business all over the world."

The new freighter services will also help to

support Norway's oil&gas sector. The airline's nose-loading Boeing 747 freighters are especially well-suited to transporting long oil&gas shipments.

Martin Langaas, Director Cargo – Traffic Development at Oslo Airport, commented: "AirBridgeCargo's decision to launch twice-weekly all-cargo flights is a welcome and important boost to Norway's exporters and our freight forwarding community. The Norwegian

airfreight market is growing by over 10% annually, making it the largest air cargo market in the Nordics. The Norwegian market for seafood exports alone is expected to grow by 500% within the next 20-30 years. To reach this predicted growth, it's essential to attract high quality carriers like AirBridgeCargo to OSL to connect Norway with its most important markets in Asia and North America." ■

### 3.11.2016 | AIRBRIDGECARGO AIRLINES OFFERS MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHARMA PRODUCTS WITH AWARD OF IATA CEIV CERTIFICATE

**AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) has become the first airline in Russia and the seventh in the world to be awarded IATA's Center of Excellence for Validators in Pharmaceutical Logistics (CEIV Pharma) certification for the global transportation of pharma products via its cargo hub in Sheremetyevo, Moscow.**

The transportation of temperature sensitive pharma shipments is one of the fastest-growing air cargo markets, driven by global demand for healthcare and life science products. In order to comply with strict international standards, the world's leading pharma companies need to work with high quality air cargo service providers that can ensure the integrity of their products through the quality of their delivery, handling and storage solutions. This vital supply chain helps to ensure the health and wellbeing of people of all ages all over the world.

"Good health is one of our core corporate values so we clearly understand the importance of this certification. IATA CEIV is a confirmation that our quality procedures for the transportation of pharma products, including temperature sensitive goods, fully comply with IATA's standards. Every player in the pharma supply chain must follow strict procedures to ensure products reach consumers in good time and in perfect condition. We are proud that AirBridgeCargo was able to complete its preparation for CEIV certification within just four months and successfully passed the IATA audit. As part of this, we have also delivered specialist pharma training to 200 of our employees. This is

one of the first steps on the way to ABC becoming a leading carrier of pharma goods for our customers around the world.

"We are confident that this confirmation of our competency and expertise will allow us to increase our volumes of pharma products across our international route network, including imports and exports to/from Russia. It will also help us to attract additional transit cargo via Sheremetyevo airport on the Europe-Asia trade lane. Through our team's efforts aimed at the development and promotion of competitive and high quality services, we also hope to attract new business from customers that currently choose to use ground transportation services," said Sergey Lazarev, General Director of AirBridgeCargo Airlines.

The realization of AirBridgeCargo's plans will also depend on the support of its key partners. The award of this CEIV Pharma certification is an important milestone in the successful development of the strategic partnership between Volga-Dnepr Group and Sheremetyevo International Airport, which is focused on long-term and mutually beneficial cooperation to develop the airport's role as an international cargo hub in Moscow. Joint compliance with the CEIV standards by both the airline and airport will help to raise the airfreight market for pharma shipments in Russia to a new level, delivering a globally-recognized level of service for customers shipping temperature-sensitive medical goods.

"The ambitious target pursued by AirBridgeCargo

in creating a pharma hub along with obtaining the CEIV Pharma certification will be supported by the large-scale development program of Sheremetyevo International Airport. As part of this program, a new 47,000 sq. m automated cargo terminal will be commissioned in 2017. The \$85 million terminal will initially be capable of handling up to 380,000 tons a year with a future potential to expand to 1 million tons a year. We are set on building the largest cargo hub in Europe to meet the growing market needs and create favorable conditions for long-term success of our partner airlines," said Mikhail Vasilenko, CEO of Sheremetyevo International Airport.

Robert van de Weg, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing at Volga-Dnepr Group, added: "Gaining CEIV Pharma certification reflects our commitment to being a high quality service provider and our responsibility to help maintain the integrity of our pharma customers' cold chains. We have demonstrated that we have the required processes in place to meet this IATA global standard and to provide the level of quality and consistency that is so paramount to every customer shipping healthcare products. Giving customers this level of confidence in our pharma service will ensure we continue to increase our share of this very important part of the air cargo market."

On 22 November, Andrey Bystrov, Manager Aviation Solutions IATA, Russia branch office officially presented AirBridgeCargo's IATA CEIV Pharma certificate to Sergey Lazarev ■



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