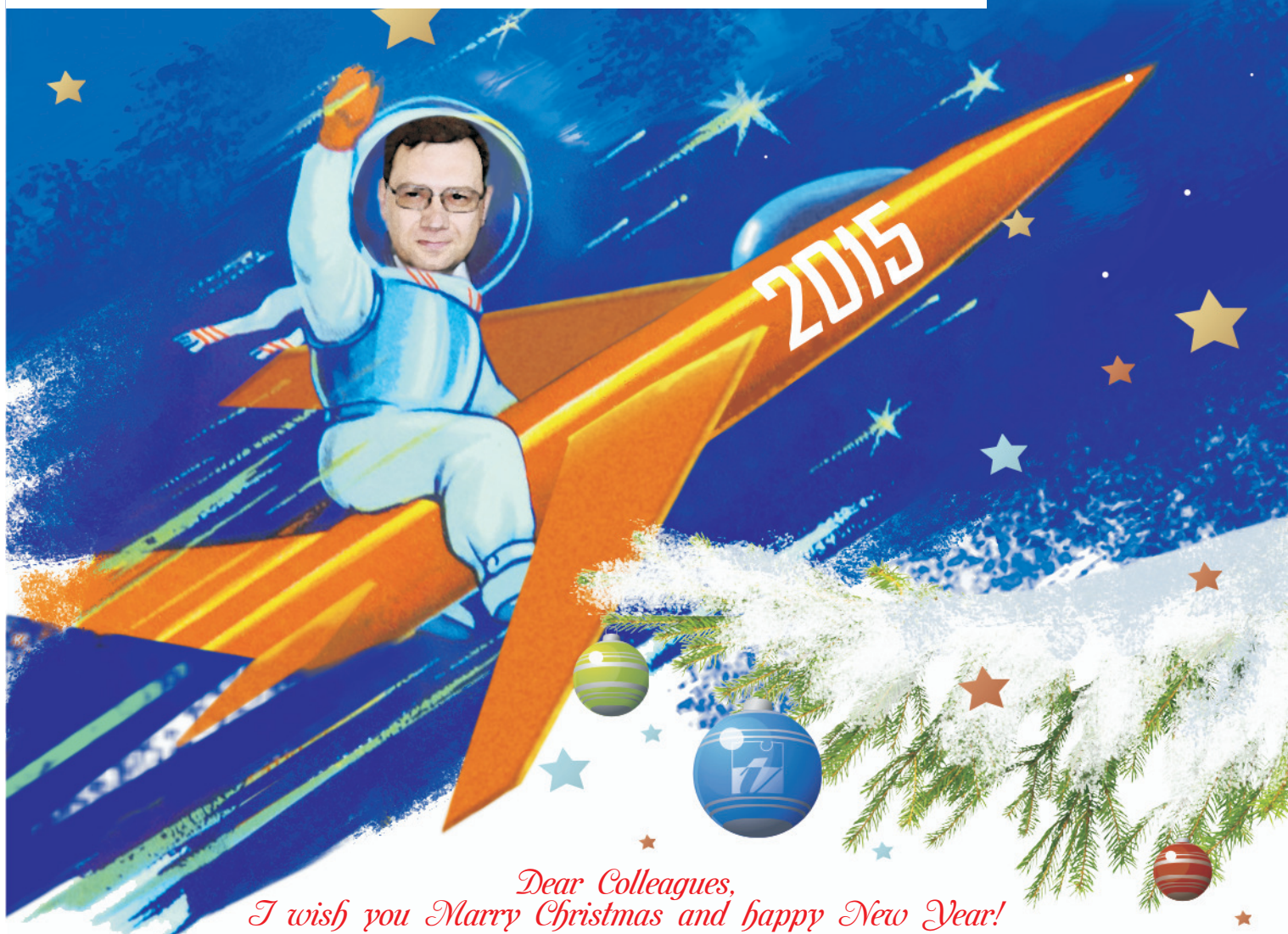




# AIRLIFT WORLD

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*Dear Colleagues,  
I wish you Merry Christmas and happy New Year!*

*Sincerest thanks from NTC and our colleagues from Volga-Dnepr Group for your association during the 2014 year on aviation insurance and strategic business development. We appreciate your high professionalism and warm working atmosphere.*

*May your holiday be filled with joy, happiness, pleasant meetings and a little wonder! May all your dreams come true! Let the new 2015 to be the most generous to you. We extend our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family!*

*Yours sincerely, Rodionov Alexander*

## AirBridgeCargo Airlines first flight gets a splashing welcome at Basel airport



The first flight of AirBridgeCargo Airlines touched down just before 4 p.m. on Friday at EuroAirport Basel Mulhouse Freiburg. ABC Boeing 747-8F was given a water cannon salute at touchdown, an airport tradition in the aviation industry when a new airline starts services.

'ABC will operate the new weekly service to/from Basel on Fridays using Boeing 747 freighter with further onward connections to the major cities in Asia, including Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, Zhengzhou, Chengdu, Seoul, and Tokyo, via its hub in Moscow. We are confident that the product we offer to the market meets the demand for cargo transportation services pharmaceutical products. We hope customers will appreciate the high level of reliability and on-time performance which already made the reputation of AirBridgeCargo Airlines in the world', said Robert Van de Weg, Senior VP Marketing and Sales, ABC

AirBridgeCargo Airlines, part of Volga Dnepr Group, with its yearly tonnage compound growth rate of

39% is one of the fastest-growing air cargo carriers. It connects the world's largest cargo flows from Asia to Europe and the United States via Russia. It operates modern and efficient Boeing 747 all-cargo fleet of 12 aircraft and maintains a high level of on-time performance which averages to 78%. Being an all-cargo carrier, ABC has an opportunity to adjust each of the four Boeing's 747 cargo compartments between 4-29 degrees Celsius, therefore ensuring safe and reliable transportation for the high-value pharma goods.

ABC is member of IATA, Cool Chain Association, TAPA, and Cargo 2000.

AirBridgeCargo is represented in Basel by its GSSA partner, RTW Air Services SA.

## French trade delegation meets with Volga-Dnepr



on a 24/7/365 basis. The UBIFRANCE group also visited Volga-Dnepr's Training Centre and its unique An-124-100 flight simulator.

The tour was completed by a visit to the airline's Maintenance Department at Ulyanovsk-Vostochny Airport, where technical staff shared their knowledge of the An-124, the world's largest series-produced transport aircraft, and highlighted its outstanding technical characteristics and bespoke loading equipment used for heavy and outsize cargo deliveries.

Both sides expressed their hope to cooperate in the future.



The French Trade Commission UBIFRANCE, responsible for export promotion, has paid a visit to Volga-Dnepr Airlines in Ulyanovsk to gain a better understanding of its unique air logistics capabilities.

The delegation included members of UBIFRANCE, a French government organisation that comes under the aegis of the Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Trade, representatives of the French Embassy in Russia and senior executives from French aerospace cor

porations that produce technology systems, avionics, aircraft parts and paint materials for the aviation industry.

The group was hosted by members of Volga-Dnepr Airlines' senior management team, who provided a presentation on the airline and its range of transportation and logistics services before inviting the airline's guests to tour its high-tech Flight Operations Center, which monitors Volga-Dnepr's international operations



## Airbridgecargo wins a transport 'Oscar'

**AirBridgeCargo Airlines, a part of Volga–Dnepr Group and Russia's largest scheduled all-cargo carrier, has been awarded the 'Best Cargo Airline' Golden Chariot Award at a ceremony in Berlin that is recognised as the 'Oscar' of the transport industry.**

The awards took place at the Kempinski Hotel in Berlin during the InnoTrans 2014 international transport exhibition, which attracted more than 100,000 professionals from over 140 countries. Andrey Andreev, ABC's Head of Sales & Business Development, received the award on behalf of the airline from the President of OSJD, Tadeusz Szozda, and Gennady Bessonov, Secretary General of the Coordinating Council of Transsiberian Transportation (CCTT).

"We are extremely honoured to have won this transport award and especially proud that this recognition should

come as ABC celebrates its 10th anniversary. This is a tribute to the hard work of our team around the world, the support of our parent company, Volga-Dnepr Group, and our constant drive to work to the highest quality standards. ABC has been fortunate to win a number of awards voted for by our customers and partners and now we are proud to receive this transport award from the industry authorities and professionals," said Andrey Andreev.

The ceremony took place with the support and participation of the International Union of Railways (UIC), the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD), the International Union of Public Transport (UITP), the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA), the International Association 'Coordinating Council on Transsiberian Transportation' (CCTT), the transport group of NATO and other leading international industry associations.

## Chapman freeborn and Volga–Dnepr deliver argentina's first satellite on an-124 charter

Chapman Freeborn Airchartering and Volga-Dnepr Airlines have helped Argentina's aerospace industry deliver a piece of history by transporting the first-ever space satellite manufactured in the country from San Carlos de Bariloche Airport to its launch site in French Guiana.

The ARSAT-1 satellite and its special transport container, weighing in common about 40 tons, were carried onboard an An-124-100 freighter under the Ruslan International

joint venture. The flight was performed by Volga-Dnepr on behalf of the Brazil office of global aircraft charter specialists Chapman Freeborn.

Speaking on behalf of Chapman Freeborn in Brazil, Maria Faria said:

"We're delighted to have managed this high-profile charter operation on behalf of our client. I would also like to thank Volga-Dnepr for its support in making this operation a huge success. The customer was very happy with the professionalism demonstrated."

John Meehleder, Sales Executive of Volga-Dnepr Unique Air Cargo, said:

"We have served customers in Argentina for some 22 years and over this period have carried over 7,000 tons of import and export cargo. We are proud to have helped Argentina make history by carrying the country's first-ever satellite and look forward to being part of its ongoing growth in the global aerospace market."

ARSAT-1 is a geostationary communications satellite manufactured in Argentina by the INVAP S.E. company. It is scheduled to be launched in October 2014 and will provide a wide range of telecommunications, data transmission, telephone and television services mainly across all of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay.



## Volga-Dnepr Gulf awarded easa Part-145 aircraft maintenance certificate in Sharjah

**Volga-Dnepr Gulf (VD Gulf), Volga-Dnepr Technics Subgroup branch in the Middle East, passed all required procedures to receive EASA approval (European Aviation Safety Agency) to perform maintenance of western-made aircraft at the Sharjah Airport.**

EASA Part-145 certificate allows to perform the aircraft line maintenance of Boeing 737 CL&NG, Boeing 747-400 and Airbus A320 Family, as well as to provide services in components repair (C4, C5, C8, C14, C20 ratings) and non-destructive check (D1).

This autumn airlines based in Sharjah Airport can become the first customers of MRO services provided by Volga-Dnepr Gulf. The company plans to extend the ratings of EASA / GCAA certificates for Boeing 747 and Boeing 737 NG aircraft up to C-check level of maintenance.

Victor Sherin, Managing Director, Volga-Dnepr Gulf said: "I sincerely congratulate the VD Gulf team on EASA Part-145 certificate. We took appropriate steps to pass this important certification and this document confirms the highest status of our company. Now we face even more important objectives: enter and take over the Middle East MRO market. There are good reasons for that, such as modern maintenance station in Sharjah Airport, the team of highly skilled professionals, optimized processes and partnership relations. I am sure that everything is within our team's scope of abilities".

Volga-Dnepr Gulf has been operating in UAE since 1996. The company has a new ultramodern hangar complex in Sharjah with production area of about 22 000 sq.m. It can accommodate maintenance of 6 narrow-body or 2 wide-body Boeing 747 or An-124-100 aircraft at the same time. This complex is fully equipped to perform the high-quality maintenance of different types of aircraft up to C-check level. It also has modern air conditioning and fire extinguishing systems. Volga-Dnepr introduced another line maintenance station in Fujairah which, similar to Sharjah station, is capable of providing all types of maintenance check and auxiliary services for An-124-100, An-74 and IL-76TD aircraft types operated by Russian, Ukrainian, European, Asian and African airlines. VD Gulf received required GCAA approvals.



### International team

The historic delivery of Argentina's first ARSAT-1 satellite from San Carlos de Bariloche Airport to its launch site in French Guiana on 31 August combined the air logistics expertise of Volga-Dnepr Airlines' teams in Houston, Stansted and Ulyanovsk and perfectly demonstrated the high level of cooperation between the airline's global specialists to meet the customer's requirements. "The delivery was contracted in Houston, USA, by Volga-Dnepr Unique Air Cargo and then our offices in Stansted and Ulyanovsk joined in the planning. Despite technical difficulties at the previous destination point prior to this flight, a great team effort by the flight and technical crew of the RA82046 aircraft involved in the flight meant the cargo was offloaded in a very short timescale and this



enabled us to ensure the An-124-100 arrived without any delay in Bariloche. Our flight operations officers in Ulyanovsk and Stansted did a great job coordinating ground support agents and that also resulted in a highly efficient offloading of the cargo," said Dmitry Grishin, Sales Director, Volga-Dnepr UK.

"Bariloche was welcoming the An-124 for the first time so we needed to ensure the airport and handling agent were fully aware of the procedures and equipment needed to handle such a large plane. The other challenge was ensuring the aircraft operated on time. Much planning had taken place to celebrate Argentina's pride in the first satellite to be built in the country. Such was the national importance of this cargo, there were Argentinean government ministers, national television crews and press waiting for the aircraft's arrival. In fact, the aircraft's approach was shown live on national television and via a web broadcast," added Robert Clow, Operations Supervisor (Volga-Dnepr), Ruslan International.

"The flight from San Carlos de Bariloche Airport with the first Argentinean built satellite onboard is a great example of the successful and efficient work of our big international team. I thank all participants of involved in this prestigious delivery for their total dedication and professionalism which earned the admiration and sincere gratitude of both our customer and longstanding partner Chapman Freeborn, as well as the consignor and manufacturer of the satellite, the ARSAT SA company," commented Alexander Bashkov, Executive President, Volga-Dnepr Airlines.

## New Boeing 747- 8 Freighter



**AirBridgeCargo Airlines has recently celebrated the delivery of its next brand new 747-8 Freighter.** "It is our sixth Boeing 747-8 Freighter and ABC has already experienced the outstanding payload and operating economics of the 747-8 family," said Denis Ilin, Executive President of AirBridgeCargo Airlines. "We are really excited to celebrate this most recent addition to our fleet of Boeing 747s"

With delivery of the sixth 747-8 Freighter, AirBridgeCargo continues to follow its long-term fleet modernization strategy with a target to serve clients with the most sophisticated equipment. The new aircraft will be used on ABC's existing route network linking Europe, Asia and the United States via the airline's hub in Moscow. As from October 17, the new aircraft will

join the ABC's weekly schedule, just on time to provide the market and customers with additional capacity during the upcoming cargo season.

With this addition AirBridgeCargo's fleet consists of total 13 Boeing 747s, including six Boeing 747-8 Freighters, four Boeing 747-400ERFs (Extended Range Freighters), three Boeing 747-400 Freighters.

The new 747-8 Freighter gives cargo operators the lowest operating costs and best economics of any large freighter airplane while providing enhanced environmental performance. It is optimized to provide greater revenue cargo-carrying capability than the 747-400, offering 16 percent more cargo volume while keeping its iconic nose door.

## Volga-Dnepr delivers helicopters for emergency un mission to fight ebola

**On October 14, Volga-Dnepr Airlines transported Mi-8 helicopters for the latest United Nations (UN) emergency health mission in response to the Ebola virus outbreak. The flight was operated using one of Volga-Dnepr's An-124 'Ruslan' freighters from Moscow, Russia, to Freetown, Sierra Leone.**

The three multi-purpose helicopters will be used to support the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) established in late September to fight the outbreak of the virus in western Africa.

To load the helicopters into the cargo hold of the An-124, Volga-Dnepr applied a loading plan specially developed for the carriage of rotor-wing machines. This involves demounting lifting and tail propellers, vibration absorbers, fuel tanks, and removing fluids from the shock struts and wheels. This reduced the height of the helicopters enabling them to be loaded onboard the An-124 alongside the demounted equipment.

The Ebola virus has so far penetrated Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Senegal and claimed more than 4,500 lives. Many international organisations, including the UN, are providing financial and people resources to help stop the spread of the

virus in the countries most affected by the Ebola outbreak. UNMEER's priority mission is to stop the epidemic, cure infected people, supply disease areas with all necessary medical services, stabilise the situation and prevent future outbreaks.



## Volga-Dnepr group ensures safe delivery of historical arts for 'Medieval Morocco' exhibition at the Louvre Museum in Paris

Volga-Dnepr has been entrusted with carrying 18 tonnes of artefacts from Rabat in Morocco to Paris Vatry in France for an exhibition of 'Medieval Morocco' at the world famous Louvre Museum.

The exhibition includes pieces of art such as architectural decoration, textiles, ivory and calligraphy dating back to the 11th-15th centuries. Open to the public from 17 October 2014 until 19 January 2015, it provides a new look at the period when



the western Islamic world was at the height of its glory, as much in terms of its artistic production as its place in history, and recognises this powerful civilisation's position at the centre of diplomatic and trade networks.

The total value of the exhibition pieces carried onboard Volga-Dnepr's An-124 freighter cannot be estimated, the artefacts are priceless. The cargo included some pieces up to 4m in height.

The delivery was completed by Ruslan International and operated on behalf of leading aircraft charter company, Air Partner, for the National Foundation of Museums of Morocco.

"It was very important for the customer that this valuable cargo was transported safely and on-time to France to complete the necessary preparation work at the Louvre before the exhibition opens to the public. We ensured the artworks were delivered with great care and precision in accordance with our customers' requirements using our longstanding

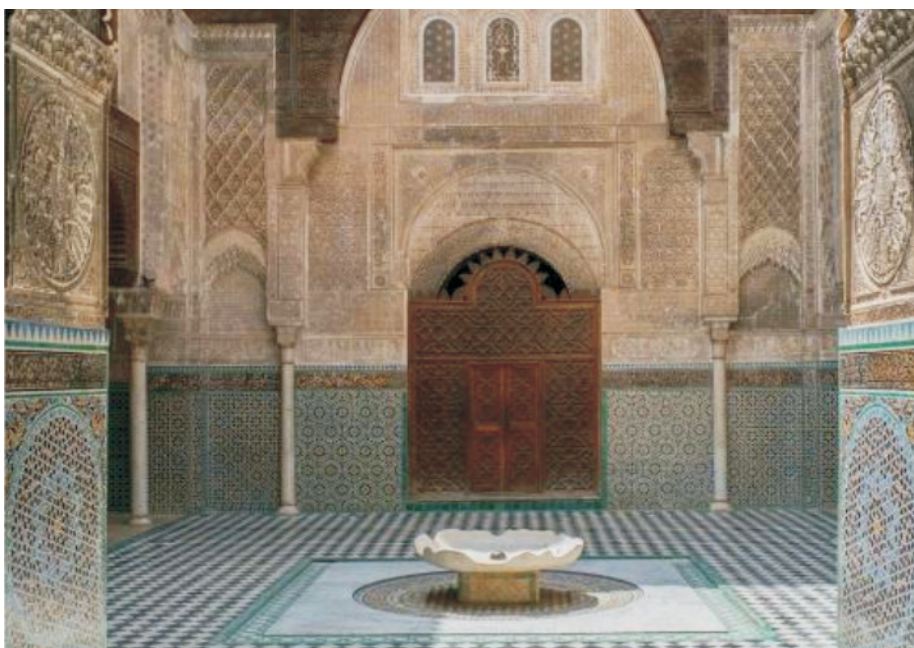


experience of moving sensitive, high value shipments all over the world," said Ekaterina Andreeva, Sales Executive at Volga-Dnepr Airlines.

Thierry Zemouli, Freight Manager for Air Partner France, commented, "With over 50 years' experience, the team at Air Partner really understands the challenges involved with transporting high value cargo safely and on time. Our unique knowledge and experience from across the globe means that we can tailor every flight to our clients' unique requirements, delivering the most cost-effective and efficient solution every time. We are also delighted to have the opportunity to work with Volga-Dnepr again, further building on our long-standing relationship which

enables us, together, to provide our clients with a truly exceptional level of service."

Volga-Dnepr has considerable expertise in managing deliveries of high value cargo for both state museums and owners of private collections. These shipments have included transporting the famous 'Terracotta Army' sculptures of Chinese warriors from Shanghai to Guam onboard one of its IL-76TD aircraft, and the delivery of more than 100 paintings of the Tretyakov Gallery holdings from the 18th-20th centuries from Moscow to Beijing. The airline was also asked to transport treasured artworks from the Hermitage Museum to the Kuwait National Museum.



## Volga-Dnepr group develops customs relations



The XV International Exhibition "Customs Service 2014" was held in Moscow's "Expocenter" on 22-23 October 2014 and traditionally attracted high interest of both Russian and international business communities, governmental agencies and general public.

The exhibition was attended by Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev as well as top customs authorities of the Customs Union member states, and representatives of the Eurasian Economic Commission and foreign customs authorities.

Russian and foreign companies were represented by foreign trade operators, customs brokers, carriers, owners of temporary and bonded warehouses.

Volga-Dnepr Group was represented by AirBridgeCargo Airlines exhibiting the Group's achievements and growth prospects.

Volga-Dnepr's customs support departments held a number of meetings with the Eurasian Economic Commission, Russia's Federal Customs Service, PRC customs authorities, customs units from Vnukovo, Domodedovo, Sheremetyevo and Kaliningrad airports, Volga Region Customs Administration, Alt Soft and STM companies, where they shared experience and discussed prospective steps for introduction of prior notification procedure regarding goods carried by air into the customs territory of the Customs Union.

The extensive conference program included panels and round tables devoted to current customs and logistics issues.

At the end of the exhibition AirBridgeCargo Airlines was awarded a diploma for active participation.



## Volga-Dnepr took part in business event of PRC embassy in Russia



**Volga-Dnepr Airlines participated in presentation of economic and investment potential of Ulyanovsk region in the Embassy of People's Republic of China in Moscow on 17 October.**

Sergey Morozov, Governor of Ulyanovsk Region, was the leader of Region's delegation. It consisted of directors of major production companies, small and medium enterprises of the region, specialists of regional higher educational institutions, prominent artists of the region. The delegation of China was represented by Lee Hui, Chinese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Russia, representatives of the Embassy and Chinese business community.

Presentation of Volga-Dnepr Group was delivered by Anton Khodakovsky, Vice-President, Japan and South Korea, who reported the Group activity in the international market, particularly in China, the main types of cargo delivered by Volga-Dnepr, major customers and cargo traffic to China. Meeting participants also discussed prospective cooperation and business opportunities.



## Baltic Air Charter Association honours Volga-Dnepr Airlines with 'Best Cargo Charter Airline' award

**Volga-Dnepr Airlines has been voted 'Best Cargo Charter Airline' in the prestigious annual awards presented by the Baltic Air Charter Association (BACA), the global organisation for leaders in the aircraft charter industry.**

It is the fifth time the Association's members have honoured Volga-Dnepr Airlines with this award, following its successes in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Dmitry Grishin, Sales Director of Volga-Dnepr was presented with the 2014 award by Shahe Ouzounian, Chief Operating Officer of the award sponsors Chapman Freeborn Airchartering.

Senior executives from the international air charter industry from over 150 companies attended the 2014 Awards Lunch hosted by BACA at the Guildhall in London. The annual awards ceremony recognises the leading charter companies in a variety of industry sectors and the winners are selected by some 200 representatives of BACA and air charter customers. Commenting on the award, Dmitry Grishin said: "This is a highly-coveted award and we are proud to have been honoured once again by the members of BACA. The Baltic Air Charter Association is respected all over the world because it brings together so many of the leading providers of air charter services. With their knowledge and expertise, they are best-placed to identify the companies that truly excel in this specialist sector and that makes winning this award so special to us. As we prepare to commence our 25th year of operations, it will inspire everyone at Volga-Dnepr Airlines to continue to strive to deliver the very highest levels of customer service and operational excellence."

Tony Coe, Chairman of BACA, said: "We warmly congratulate Volga-Dnepr Airlines in winning the 'Best Cargo Charter Airline' BACA Award for 2014. Volga-Dnepr Airlines have always been a stalwart in supporting the Association and it's so nice to see a

prominent member be rewarded with success. The membership voted on-line and Volga-Dnepr Airlines was a clear winner - well done."

The Baltic Air Charter Association (BACA) is the successor to the Airbrokers' Association founded by members of the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange in March 1949. Its purpose was to bring to aircraft chartering the same standards of integrity and professionalism for which the Baltic Exchange and the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers have for so long been known and respected. For today the Association joins 125 charter companies: airlines, airports, handling agents, freight forwarders, and



Volga-Dnepr Technics GmbH (VDT GmbH), a representative of Volga-Dnepr Technics in Europe, performed its first A-check on a Boeing 737 CL aircraft owned and operated by Cargo Air, a private Bulgarian charter airline, at its hangar facilities in Leipzig/Halle airport.

"We are very glad to start cooperation with Cargo Air. I hope our new partner appreciated our hangar facilities, qualified personnel, teamwork and hearty welcome. I am confident both of us will benefit from this cooperation that will be the role model of effective and efficient relation-

## First a-check on a Boeing 737 cl by Volga-Dnepr Technics in Leipzig



All necessary scope of work was accomplished by VDT GmbH in direct coordination with representatives from Cargo Air who personally witnessed hangar capabilities and service quality and expressed their solid satisfaction with job well done.

At the end of the year 2013, VDT GmbH extended its EASA Part-145 approval to include A-check services on Boeing 737-300/400/500 and Boeing 747-8F, B-747-400 (PW-4000) type aircraft. The Company's Rating C14 was also expanded to cover wheel and brake repair shop activities on a variety of Boeing 747 aircraft models.

ship for the market," said Ildar Ilyasov, Managing Director of VDT GmbH

"When we came to Volga-Dnepr Technics GmbH, we were eager to get a reliable MRO partner offering quality services and own hangar in Europe. This company fully meets our requirements. The cooperative work impressed us favorably, and I believe we will return for VDT GmbH services again in future," said Kaloyan Yordanov, Director for Maintenance and Engineering at Cargo Air

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