



# PREMIERE ERA

February

A direct cargo flight has been launched between Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, and Frankfurt, Germany. The route, launched on Sunday, is operated by German airline Lufthansa, and will offer a trip every Tuesday and Sunday. The direct route will help meet rising air cargo needs boosted by booming cross-border e-commerce, according to local logistics authorities.

## Direct Cargo Flight Launched Between Chengdu, Frankfurt



The annual cargo throughput at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport rose 5.1 percent to about 643,000 tonnes in 2017, ranking first among airports in Central and West China.



## Tianjin Cargo Airlines Set For May launch

Tianjin Cargo Airlines is set to launch operations in May utilising B737 aircraft, according to local reports.

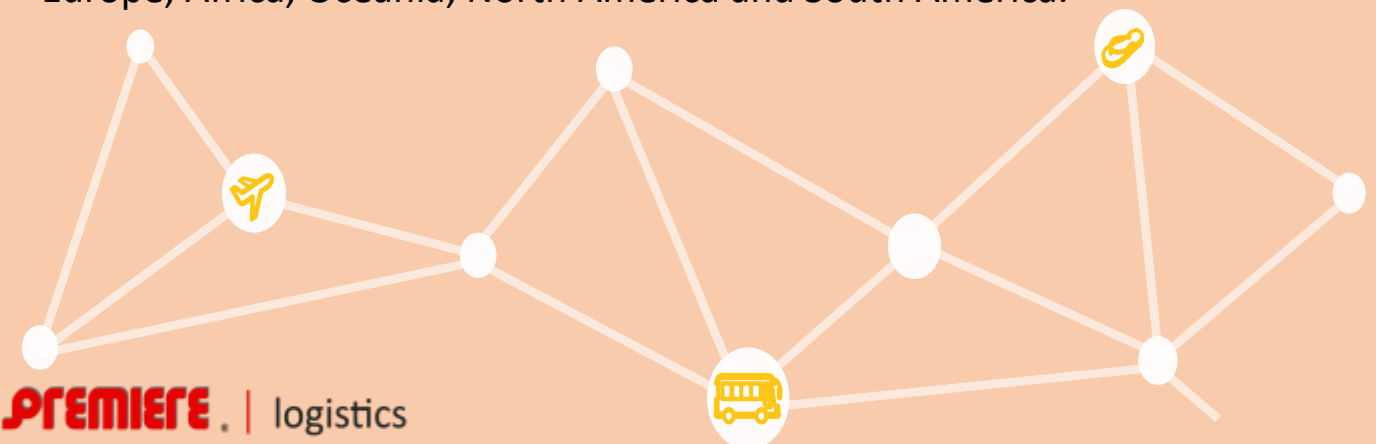
According to China Civil Aviation Network News, the airline will begin operations on May 2 utilising three B737 freighters.

Initially, the airline will operate routes between Tianjin and Zhengzhou, Xi'an, Chongqing, Shenzhen, Urumqi, Shanghai Pudong and Guangzhou.

It will be the only all-cargo-operator located at Tianjin, which is to the south-east of congested Beijing Capital International airport.

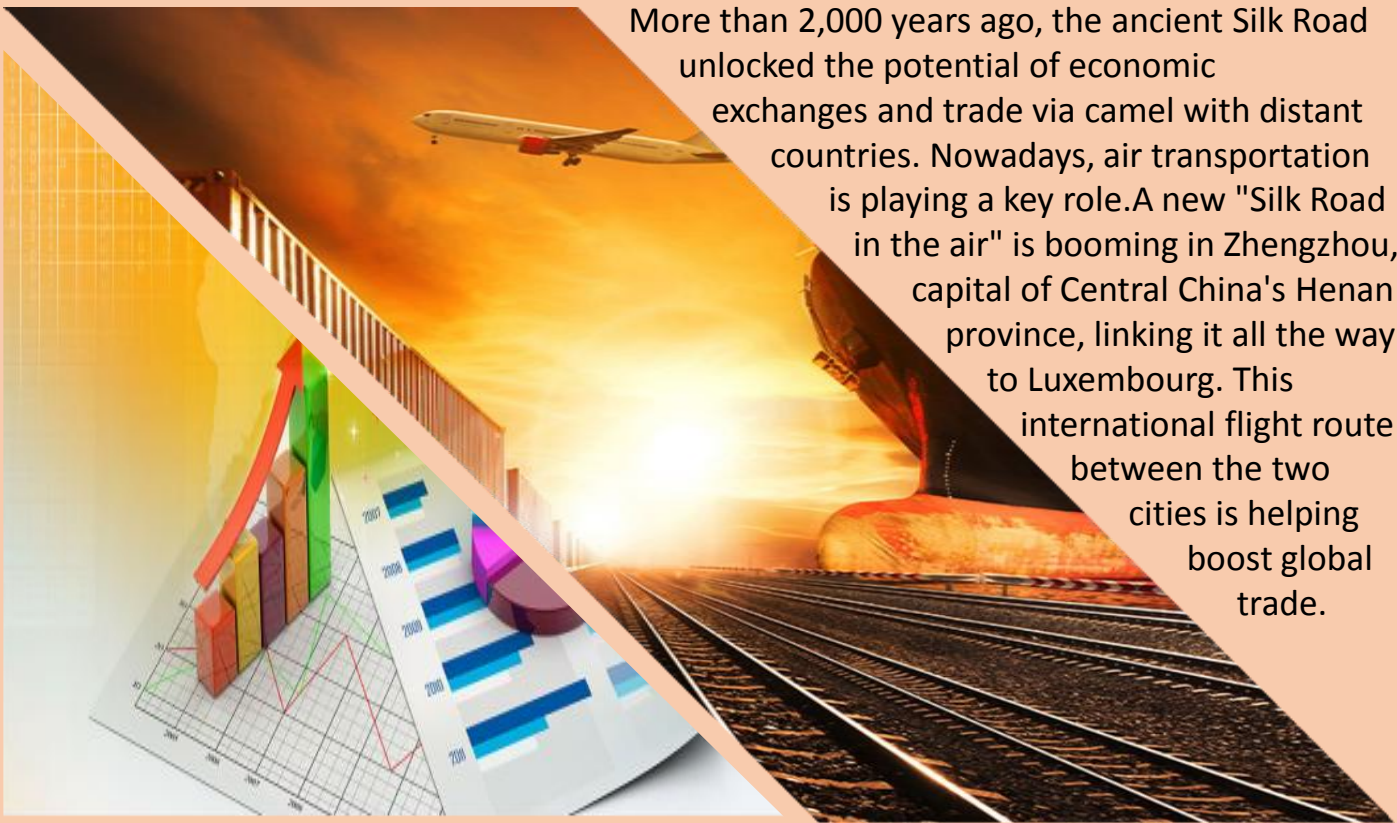
The airline hopes to add B767 and B747 aircraft in the future and expand its fleet to between 50 and 100 aircraft over the next five years.

The airline also plans in the future to add intercontinental freight routes to Europe, Africa, Oceania, North America and South America.





# Airborne Silk Road Helps Boost Zhengzhou's Fortunes



More than 2,000 years ago, the ancient Silk Road unlocked the potential of economic exchanges and trade via camel with distant countries. Nowadays, air transportation is playing a key role. A new "Silk Road in the air" is booming in Zhengzhou, capital of Central China's Henan province, linking it all the way to Luxembourg. This international flight route between the two cities is helping boost global trade.

Statistics show total cargo shipments in and out of Zhengzhou Airport likely reached 500,000 metric tons in 2017, and cargo shipments to and from Luxembourg alone from Zhengzhou were expected to constitute 150,000 tons of this, or nearly a third of the total cargo shipments, said Eric Erbacher, sales director of Cargolux Airlines International, Europe's biggest all-cargo airline.

Pointing to several large containers of fresh fruit, he said: "It only takes about 19 flight hours to deliver the South American cherries to Zhengzhou by charter flight, perfectly fresh!" "In South America, the cherries have enjoyed a bumper harvest, while China is booming now. We delivered them here directly to China to meet market demand as Christmas and New Year festivals are coming," Erbacher said in a LuxFresh store at the Zhengzhou Airport Economic Comprehensive Experimental Area.

President Xi Jinping first pushed for China to build a "Silk Road in the air" between Luxembourg and Zhengzhou on June 14, 2017, during a meeting with visiting Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel in Beijing.

Xi said that China and Luxembourg should deepen cooperation in finance and production capacity within the framework of promoting the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Initiative was proposed in 2013, and aims to build trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient Silk Road trade routes while seeking common development and prosperity. Erbacher said support for the "Silk Road in the air" showed a level of foresight and quick action needed to grasp new opportunities.

Xie Fuzhan, Party chief of Henan, said: "both Luxembourg and Zhengzhou are key transport hubs that link airways and railways, and Zhengzhou has seen booming cooperation with Luxembourg in sectors including tourism, air transportation and railway shipping." Since airfreight operations between the Henan Civil Aviation Development and Investment Logistics Co Ltd and Cargolux Airlines International began in 2014, the Zhengzhou-Luxembourg project has covered Germany, Belgium, Chile and the United States.

# Australia and Peru Ink Free Trade Agreement



Australia and Peru signed the Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement (PAFTA) on February 12.

The deal will open the door for Australian exports to one of the fastest growing economies and regions in the world with an average growth rate of 5.9 per cent over the last decade.

PAFTA will eliminate tariffs on 99 percent of Australian goods within five years of the Agreement's entry into force. Additionally, it will deliver greater access for Australian financial, legal and other professional service operators in Peru. The deal will serve as a gateway to Latin America, and to value chains between Asia and the Americas. It is also a stepping-stone to a trade agreement with the Pacific Alliance (Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Peru). PAFTA is the fastest trade agreement Australia has ever concluded, after negotiations were launched in May 2017. The Turnbull Coalition Government is pursuing an ambitious trade agenda and agreements like PAFTA to drive economic growth and create new jobs.

**The first China-EU cargo train from Urumqi to Naples, Italy, departs at 11:30 am on Feb 26, 2018.**



A train carrying local tomato sauce products left Urumqi, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, for Naples, Italy, on Feb.26th. The China-Europe rail operation from Xinjiang to Naples will pass through Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and over the Caspian, Black and Mediterranean seas before wrapping up the 10,500-km journey in Italy. This is the 1,000th train to make the journey to Europe since the first China-EU cargo train service leaving from Urumqi was launched on May 26, 2016.

Over nearly two years' development, the number of train departures from Urumqi to Europe has grown from once a day in 2016 to three times a day in the first two months of this year, and cargo train services have covered 24 cities in 17 countries in Central Asia and Europe. It is expected that a total of 1,400 cargo trains from Xinjiang to Europe will make the trip this year, according to the railway authority in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

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