

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **FEBRUARY 2024**



- 1. WestJet eyes digital developments in 2024**
- 2. BFS the latest handler to add an embargo due to cargo surge**
- 3. Schiphol launches upgraded Port Community System**
- 4. Etihad Cargo boosts safety and security of electronics**
- 5. China's Travel spending during Lunar New Year holiday beat pre-COVID levels**

## WestJet eyes digital developments in 2024



WestJet will this year target digital investments in cargo as well as network and product expansion following the launch of freighter operations last year. The Canada-based combination carrier's cargo business said that in 2024 it would launch a new website "in anticipation of a shift towards more self-service options".

WestJet Cargo added that it would also want to launch new digital partnerships with the possible addition of its capacity to a digital marketplace. "Our priority focus is on delivering reliable solutions to our customers. To achieve this, we're applying our unique corporate mindset to three main areas this year. 2024 will see WestJet Cargo continue building and expanding its strategic partnerships, further diversifying its product mix, and implementing our digital roadmap with respect to online marketplaces and a new website." said by Kirsten de Bruijn, which is the executive vice president, cargo at WestJet.

"Digital innovation will also focus on solutions for enhanced efficiency and service delivery, including the possible implementation of advanced technologies within its cargo operations," the carrier said.

On network, the airline is adding a bellyhold flight to Seoul in May and will upgrade their Narita service to year-round. WestJet Cargo will also keep invest to its people, focusing on career development, diversity, and inclusion, the company added. The carrier launched Boeing 737 freighter operations in April last year and start being busy on developing services and network.

Up to now, WestJet Cargo has opened 24 warehouses, 14 freighter handling stations, and expanded their cargo network to a total of 45 destinations through both its freighter and bellyhold operations.

## BFS the latest handler to add an embargo due to cargo surge



Handler Bangkok Flight Services (BFS) has become the second firm this week to add an embargo on general cargo imports due to a surge in volumes.

The Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport handler said that it would not accept import cargo between midnight on Monday February 12 and the same time on Sunday February 18 due to its 40,000 sq m warehouse reaching capacity.

BFS said it decided to add the embargo “due to unprecedented volumes of cargo due to the Red Sea crisis, resulting in a modal shift from sea to air, and a higher than expected surge due to the Chinese New Year”.

All other shipments, including exports, transhipments and special cargo imports, like perishables, pharma, dangerous goods, radioactive, valuable and live animals will keep their previous business and service as normal. BFS had been struggling to manage the flow of cargo over the last week and had been urging customers to pick up cargo using its track and trace service, rather than emailing, phoning or enquiring in person.

It appeared that the handler was catching up with the backlog but was later forced to implement the embargo.

# Schiphol launches upgraded Port Community System



**Who is the person that on the photo? He is Joost van Doesburg, which is the head of cargo Schiphol.**

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol has launched the new upgrade version of their Port Community System (PCS) after four years' of development with their fully owned cargo information platform named Cargonaut. The PCS as known as a single tech platform for information and data exchange between all internal cargo stakeholders at Schiphol and external authorities such as Customs. Also, Schiphol has been the sole owner of Cargonaut since 1st November 2020, and was a co-founder at its inception in 1986.

For the improvements the new updated system, it can deliver faster data processing, greater transparency and full compliance with the latest IATA standards and guidelines, said the airport. "By upgrading specific parts of the PCS, the system is more robust and future-proof. This means we can continue to safely ensure the smooth import and export of a large amount of cargo," said Joost van Doesburg, head of cargo, Schiphol.

The PCS has been designed to integrate upcoming technology as it evolves. Later this year, for example, the Secure Import System is being scheduled for implementation. The system informs forwarders when an import shipment is ready for collection by an air cargo handler, also the time cross referencing data to improve security.

# Etihad Cargo boosts safety and security of electronics



Etihad Cargo is keep putting more efforts to make sure the safe and secure transportation of consumer electronics with a new offering for customers from March 1.

The airline has developed and launched SecureTech in response to growing global demand from its customers and partners for a product that addresses the challenges of transporting high-value electronic devices cost-effectively while minimising risks.

SecureTech ensures the safety movement of consumer electronics. Etihad Cargo recently became the third Middle Eastern airline to achieve the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators Lithium Batteries (CEIV Li-batt) certification.

Reach the standard demonstrates Etihad Cargo's commitment to transporting lithium battery shipments safely using sophisticated safety management systems and specialised equipment.

Etihad Cargo also providing rigorous training programmes to train the teams can handling lithium batteries safely and securely and meticulously reviews all documentation, packaging, and labelling during acceptance checks with the aid of a specifically designed acceptance checklist.



# China's travel spending during Lunar New Year holidays beats pre-COVID levels



BEIJING, Feb 18 (Reuters) - Tourism revenues in China during the Lunar New Year holidays that ended on Saturday surged by 47.3% year-on-year and surpassed 2019 levels, thanks to a domestic travel boom amid a longer-than-usual break, official data showed on Sunday.

The data may offer temporary relief to policymakers as the world's second-largest economy has been facing deflationary risks amid weak consumer demand, but the sustainability of the tourism boost is uncertain and the tourism revenue per trip remained below the pre-pandemic level.



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