

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **MARCH 2024**



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## Bangkok Flight Services gains GDP certification



Handler Bangkok Flight Services has gained the Good Distribution Practice (GDP) certification for their pharma facility at Suvarnabhumi International Airport.

BFS, which is a joint venture between SAT-owned WFS and Bangkok Airways, received their GDP certification from independent audit body Escem/TüV Rheinland following a two-day assessment of the pharma facility.

The pharma facility consists of three zones offering some 120 sq m of capacity, including 215 storage positions within controlled temperature ranges of 15-25°C and 2-8°C. The handler said, “This confirms the operation’s compliance with European Commission guidelines on GDP of medicinal products for human use, and the World Health Organization’s WHO TRS 1025 – Annex 7 for Good Storage & Distribution Practices for medical products.”

In 2024, BFS will increase the capacity of its pharma storage to support growing customer volumes. Moreover, this award takes WFS’ number of GDP or IATA CEIV Pharma-certified facilities to 27, with two further locations in North America aiming for certification in the second and third quarters of 2024.

# AfA calls on Biden to improve US airport cargo infrastructure



**The person on the photo is AfA executive director, Brandon Fried.**

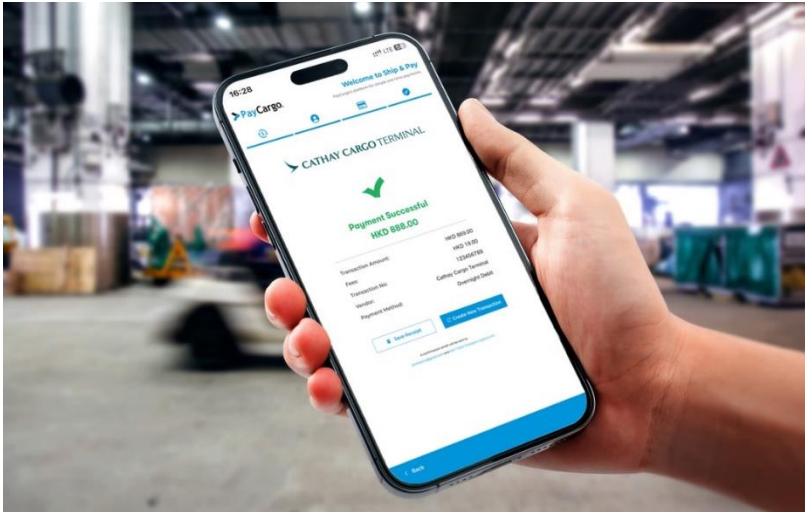
The US Airforwarders Association (AfA) has written to US president Joe Biden to ask for funding to be allocated for the improvement of cargo facilities at the country's airports.

In the letter, AfA executive director Brandon Fried said it was disappointing that the recent announcement of \$970m in grants for airport improvements still hadn't be designated for improvements in cargo areas that will help alleviate truck congestion.

Fried also wrote, "While investments in terminals, concourses, and baggage-handling systems are undoubtedly important, neglecting the urgent needs of cargo infrastructure is a missed opportunity that directly impacts the efficiency and competitiveness of our nation's air cargo industry."

He mentioned that during the pandemic trucks endured "excruciating waits" of seven to nine hours in "congested cargo areas" at most major US airports. While lower volumes have helped ease waiting times, it was still common for drivers need to wait around two hours.

# Cathay Cargo Terminal introduces ePayments



Cathay Cargo Terminal has become the first air cargo terminal in Hong Kong to introduce a business-to-business (B2B) ePayment solution.

The terminal has partnered with global cargo payment platform PayCargo to offer and provide a digital payment method for import cargo collection that is designed to be secure, user-friendly, and efficient. Cathay Cargo Terminal has also become PayCargo's launch cargo terminal partner in the Hong Kong market.

Cathay Cargo Terminal chief operating officer Mark Watts said, "We are delighted to have selected PayCargo as our ePayment solution, providing more choice and convenience for freight forwarders and their trucking agents. This marks yet another milestone in our digital journey after enabling eAWBs (electronic airwaybills) and introducing eSRF (electronic Shipment Release Forms) at our terminal, reaffirming our commitment to digital leadership."

According to Cathay Cargo Terminal, freight forwarders using the ePayment solution will be possible to settle transactions 24/7 from any location, remove the needs to queue for cash payments. The solution also offers enhanced security, and expedites the cargo release process.

# China Unveils World's First Seaborne Drone Carrier, Zhu Hai Yun



In January last year, China introduced the world to a pioneering seaborne drone carrier, Zhu Hai Yun, marking a significant advancement in unmanned maritime abilities.

Back to this year, a study done by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (abbreviated the CSIS) unveiled the covert circumnavigation of the Taiwan Strait, indicating intelligence-gathering reasons against the ground of escalating tensions between Taiwan and China.

The Zhu Hai Yun departed from Zhuhai Gaolan, stepping up on a mission cloaked in scientific research but with far-reaching implications and effects. As recognised by CSIS via satellite imagery, its journey to Dalian and its subsequent unusual path around Taiwan underscores blurred lines between military and civilian undertakings by Chinese maritime assets.

The Zhu Hai Yun, ready to launch a collection of unmanned vehicles, embodies a significant leap in naval warfare powers, enabling extensive surveillance and data collection. The capability, coupled with Chinese interest in drone swarm tactics, may redefine maritime confrontations of the future.

# Germany's First Remote Control Inland Waterway Shipping Centre Launched By SEAFAR



Belgian expert in remote-controlled shipping Seafar and its partners, HKG Shipping and Reederei Deymann, have reportedly set up Germany's first-ever remote operations hub. The centre empowers captains to navigate their vessels on inland waterways from the dry land. Seafar also mentioned that such a technology can counter the absence of specialist workers.

The concepts involving fewer crew members are being utilized for various vessels of inland waterways in the Netherlands and Belgium. Some of these will be controlled via the new Seafar centre in Duisburg-Ruhrort. The remote operations centre based located in Duisburg offers three workplaces for the skippers to maintain their vessels and a workplace for the traffic controller, who monitors the movements of the vessels and is the senior contact individual.

The shippers can remotely navigate the inland waterway vessels through a system resembling a wheelhouse with a camera system when they operating on the water. Remote-controlled operations from the dry land can make the profession more appealing.

# HAPPY EASTER 2024





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