

SECTORUPDATE

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EUROPEAN SPACE IMAGING WINS SURVEY CONTRACT

European Space Imaging has been awarded a fourth multi-year agricultural framework contract to deliver an estimated 1.2 million square kilometres of very high resolution (VHR) satellite imagery and associated services in support of the European Commission's (EC) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

This exclusive framework contract between the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and European Space Imaging relies on the delivery of VHR satellite imagery to the European Union Member States with a minimum 95% success rate according to defined image profiles and associated planning activity, in support of on-the-spot checks (OTSCs) and the CAP's Land Parcel Identification System Quality Assurance (LPIS QA).

"We have been participating in this framework since 2004 and have proven to be a reliable data supplier delivering a close to or equal to 100% success rate year on year," said Adrian Zevenbergen, managing director at European Space Imaging. "We are proud to once again be awarded this exclusive contract to assist the EU Member States in assisting the CAP programme to achieve sustainable agriculture for the success of Europe."

(Link: GIM International)

VIRGIN ATLANTIC CARGO LAUNCHES NORWAY SERVICE

Virgin Atlantic Cargo is extending its cargo-only network to Evenes, operating flights between London Heathrow and Norway for the first time in its history.

The airline is set to offer twice-weekly flights on its Boeing 787-9 aircraft offering more than 100 tonnes of capacity each week, primarily serving the Norwegian seafood

and fish industry. This new service will offer efficient connections via London Heathrow on to Virgin's network, with seafood set to travel onwards to various US destinations and other gateways on Virgin's network.

For exports to the US, the service will allow cargo to reach its destination up to 72 hours faster than current solutions through Oslo.

(Link: Air Cargo Week)

DHL EXPRESS TO EXPAND CARGO CAPACITY WITH BOEING 777 ORDER

DHL Express has ordered eight new Boeing 777 freighters as a part of its intercontinental air network expansion plan to meet the globally growing demand for cargo. The DHL Express division of Deutsche Post DHL Group decided to modernize its freighter fleet, as the "global e-commerce volume grew by more than 40 per cent" in Q4 2020, according to the company's chief executive officer John Pearson.

"With the order of eight new wide-body freighter aircraft, we underline our conviction that e-commerce is an enduring megatrend. This is why we decided to act early and kick off 2021 with this investment in our future," added Pearson.

Aircraft deliveries are scheduled to commence in 2022.

(Link: AeroTime)

EASTERN AIRWAYS ANNOUNCES NEW GIBRALTAR SERVICES FROM UK

Eastern Airways is to open new routes to Gibraltar, with the first services operating from Birmingham and Southampton from May.

The UK-based airline will operate flights twice weekly from both airports. It will be the first scheduled passenger service to Gibraltar from Southampton, with the Midlands route being restored following a four-year hiatus following the demise of Monarch.

The services between Birmingham, Southampton and Gibraltar will be operated on the airline's Embraer 190 e-Jet fleet which includes the type being based at Southampton for the first-time.

(Link: Aviation Tribune)

ROLLS-ROYCE TRIALS 100% SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL



Rolls-Royce has conducted its first tests on a 100% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) that is suitable for business jets. The tests are part of Rolls-Royce's commitment to help areas in which it is involved to operate at net zero carbon by 2050.

The tests were performed using the company's latest business aviation engine in development, the Pearl 700, in Dahlewitz, Germany, and follows on from the first use of SAF in engine ground tests on the Trent 100 engine in Derby. According to Rolls-Royce, this test demonstrates once again that its current engines for large civil and business jet applications can operate with 100% SAF as a full "drop-in" option, laying the groundwork for moving this type of fuel towards certification. [\(Link: AviTrader\)](#)

EMIRATES TO DELIVER COVID-19 VACCINES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Emirates is teaming up with Dubai Airports, DP World, and International Humanitarian City to turn Dubai into a hub for distributing COVID-19 vaccines. By joining forces and combining air routes, seaports, and logistics expertise, the aim is to get the COVID-19 vaccine out as far and wide as fast as possible.

There will be a particular focus on getting the vaccine out to developing countries where populations have been hard-hit by the pandemic, and pharmaceutical transport and logistics are challenging.

Emirates Chief Executive Officer Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said: "Each alliance partner brings to the table a specific



and complementary set of strengths and capabilities in vaccine distribution, allowing us to build a 360-degree solution that harnesses the combined logistical and infrastructural advantages of Dubai as a hub." [\(Link: Simple Flying\)](#)

STRONG START TO 2021

Exceptional global air cargo load factors in the last two weeks of January saw 2021 begin with an unusual New Year 'peak season' as demand and supply were closely matched, according to the latest weekly market data from industry analysts CLIVE Data Services and TAC Index.

CLIVE's 'dynamic load factor' analyses for the first four weeks of the year ending 31 January, based on the volume and weight perspectives of cargo flown and capacity available, shows a load factor of 66%, up 9% year-on-year.

The global dynamic load factor for the last two weeks of January, however, saw an exceptional 10-15% rise over the same days of January 2020. Strong, and historically atypical, demand for the start of a new year indicates that air cargo's slow road to recovery continues.

Global volumes in January 2021 were -4.5% compared to the same month a year ago, similar to December, and maintained month-on-month improvements following the -13% gap in year-on-year chargeable weight data reported by CLIVE Data Services in November. [\(Link: Air Cargo Week\)](#)

MECANAIR APPOINTED AS AUTHORISED SERVICE CENTRE FOR DAHER'S KODIAK AND TBM AIRCRAFT

Switzerland's MecaAir SA has been appointed as an authorized service centre for Daher's Kodiak and TBM turboprop-powered aircraft.

Based at Ecuwillens Airport near Fribourg, MecaAir is an EASA Part 145 certificated maintenance and repair station. It has been operating as an authorized Kodiak service centre, and the expansion of its responsibilities to the TBM underscores Daher's integration of these two airplanes in the company's single-engine turboprop product line [\(Link: BlueSky\)](#)