WFS targeting even more US growth as volumes rise 17%

Worldwide Flight Services’ (WFS) total volumes across its near 60 cargo stations across the US rose by more than 17 per cent in the first seven months of 2017.

WFS won a further 37 new airline contracts in the period as well as 10 contract renewals from existing customers. In 2016, it handled over 1.8 million tonnes in North America.

New agreements included contracts with Avianca Cargo in Miami, Atlas Air/Polar Air Cargo in Cincinnati, and AirBridgeCargo Airlines in Los Angeles as well as China Airlines in Chicago, LOT Polish in Newark and Los Angeles, and Swiss International Air Lines in San Diego.

2017 has also seen the full and successful integration of Consolidated Aviation Services (CAS) following its acquisition by WFS at the start of 2016. CAS rebranded as WFS earlier this year, making WFS the largest cargo handler in North America.

WFS North America senior vice president of sales and business development, Ray Jetha (pictured) says there are plenty more opportunities in the US.

He adds: “The air cargo industry is experiencing an uptick and we feel we are in a good position to accommodate this growth with our current operations. As predicted, we will see an increase in the e-commerce market and this will certainly put some pressure on regular air cargo shipments.

“We are ready to take on this challenge and have put the necessary infrastructure in place to minimise the impact and also take advantage of the opportunities we expect to be created.

“We are also looking to grow our role as a partner to our airline customers in terms of providing value-added services for pharma/AVI/perishables etc, because we aim to provide airlines and their customers with a hassle-free, fully-controlled logistics chain under one roof.”

WFS is working with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to develop ‘best in class’ systems and processes for screening.

New stylish HQ in Lux for Cargolux

CARGOLUX Airlines International and lux-Airport have launched the first phase of the airline’s new headquarters building at Luxembourg Airport.

The building will be located adjacent to Cargolux’s maintenance hangar, and connected by a glass bridge. It will house administrative staff with parking spaces.

The airline’s training organisation, including crew training and its two Boeing 747 simulators, will also be located there.

The Cargolux administrative staff is currently spread over several locations, but the new building brings all staff under one roof. Cargolux employs close to 1,400 staff in Luxembourg, including crews and maintenance staff.

The design includes the glass wall of the airline’s new headquarters building at Luxembourg Airport. Cargolux has committed to a long-term lease contract. The new building will be constructed and owned by lux-Airport, the management company of Luxembourg Airport. Cargolux has committed to a long-term lease contract. The first works will begin at the end of 2017 and it is set to move into the building in early 2020.

Picture perfect Picasso charter for ACS

AIR Charter Service (ACS) was entrusted with flying 31 priceless paintings by Pablo Picasso from France to Morocco for a special exhibition and back again two months later.

The pieces of art, insured for €150 million ($176 million), were transported on an Antonov AN-12, but the aircraft had to fly below its usual cruising speed and altitude in order to maintain a steady temperature and for the cabin to remain pressurised.

The boxes containing the paintings were reinforced and had to be kept upright at all times.

ACS France managing director, Francois-Xavier Camus says: “Our cargo director from ACS Paris personally oversaw the loading and arranged for the truck carrying the containers to have direct access to the tarmac and to load straight onto the aircraft. The precision of the operation ensured that the boxes arrived in perfect condition.”

He adds: “The exhibition was a great success and similar diligence for the return flight meant that they arrived back in France safely last week.”

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