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جامعة جدة
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TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS AROUND THE WORLD IN APRIL

A monthly global newsletter in
transportation and logistics



Saudi Arabia maintains strong position on UN maritime connectivity index

Saudi Arabia has maintained a robust position on the UN maritime connectivity index, scoring above 240 points for the fifth consecutive quarter, indicating improved shipping services. With 248 points awarded for the first quarter of the year, the Kingdom's performance has steadily increased since the launch of Vision 2030 in 2016, marking a 30 percent rise. The achievement underscores the continuity of cargo flow, ensuring resilient supply chains and logistic services, with the Saudi Ports Authority, known as Mawani, launching 31 new shipping services in collaboration with global shipping lines in 2023 and adding seven more since the start of 2024. Additionally, Mawani has invested over SR6 billion (\$1.6 billion) in establishing nine integrated logistic zones and centers at key ports, focusing on infrastructure development and automation to enhance operational efficiency, support global maritime trade, and solidify the Kingdom's position as a global logistic hub.

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Folk Maritime and Mawani spearhead Shipping in Saudi with new service

The Saudi Ports Authority, Mawani, in collaboration with Folk Maritime, has introduced the NRS shipping service at the Jeddah Islamic Port, aimed at strengthening Saudi Arabia's connectivity with North Red Sea ports and bolstering its position as a global logistics hub. This initiative, aligned with the National Transport and Logistics Strategy, emphasizes sustainable maritime solutions and efficient, customer-centric operations. By facilitating connections between Jeddah Islamic Port and key regional ports, such as Yanbu Commercial Port, Neom Port, Aqaba Port, and Sokhna Port, the service is set to enhance the Kingdom's logistics capabilities and strategic importance in global trade. Mawani's substantial investments in expanding and modernizing the Jeddah Islamic Port further underscore Saudi Arabia's commitment to elevating its maritime infrastructure, boosting capacity, operational efficiency, and attractiveness to global shipping lines, while also supporting the Kingdom's food security and logistics infrastructure.

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GCC countries should strengthen supply chains to ensure industrial growth: Oliver Wyman

Oliver Wyman emphasizes the urgent need for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to strengthen their supply chains as they embark on significant industrialization efforts. The report underscores the criticality of mitigating current risk levels in the logistics sector, particularly for countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which heavily rely on high-criticality products such as transformers and minerals for industrial growth. Highlighting potential disruptions and their far-reaching impacts, the report stresses the importance of enhancing supply chain resilience to ensure the smooth functioning of all sectors and aspects of society in the face of unexpected upheavals. It lauds Saudi Arabia's Global Supply Chain Resilience Initiative and calls for collaborative efforts and enablers covering governance, private sector involvement, capabilities, and technology to bolster supply chain resilience in the GCC region. The study advocates for incentivizing logistical resilience initiatives, establishing specialized teams within ministries, adopting advanced manufacturing policies, and addressing industrial cybersecurity requirements to safeguard industrial growth and ensure the sustainability of GCC nations' burgeoning industrial sectors.



New shipping service to enhance Connectivity between Saudi and African ports

The introduction of a new shipping service by Hapag-Lloyd is set to enhance maritime connectivity between Saudi and African ports, linking the Jeddah Islamic Port to harbors in Morocco and Egypt. This initiative, named JDX, will facilitate regular weekly trips with a capacity of up to 4,253 twenty-foot equivalent units, aiming to boost trade movement and solidify Saudi Arabia's position as a global logistics hub. This development aligns with Mawani's efforts to enhance supply-chain movement in line with the National Transport and Logistics Strategy objectives, further improving the Kingdom's international ranking. Additionally, Folk Maritime recently launched a new shipping service connecting Jeddah to the northern Red Sea, while Mawani and MEDLOG signed an agreement to establish an integrated logistics zone in Jeddah, aiming to provide job opportunities, train national staff, and contribute to environmental sustainability through alternative energy sources. The distinguished infrastructure of Jeddah Islamic Port has earned international recognition, including the "Advanced Infrastructure" award at the "Landmarks in Logistics Summit 2023."



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Launch of SEA REWARD

Loyalty program powered by SpotOn in Saudi Arabia

CMA CGM Group has introduced SEA REWARD powered by SpotOn, a new loyalty program aimed at enhancing customer experience in the shipping industry. The program rewards customers for every booking made through SpotOn, CMA CGM's digital quotation channel, allowing them to earn Nautical Miles that can be redeemed to reduce future invoices. With four status levels — Lieutenant, Captain, Master, and Admiral — customers unlock exclusive benefits as they ascend through the program. SEA REWARD, already available in Europe, is now being deployed in various regions, including Saudi Arabia, with plans for global expansion. Accessible only to customers using SpotOn, the program reinforces CMA CGM's commitment to rewarding customer loyalty and trust while supporting digital innovation in the industry.



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Mastery Logistics Systems partners with Transflo to integrate Workflow AI with MasterMind® TMS to deliver a streamlined user experience.

Transflo and Mastery Logistics Systems have joined forces in a strategic partnership to integrate Workflow AI with MasterMind® TMS, offering a seamless user experience in freight management. Mastery's MasterMind® TMS connects systems, people, and data, while Transflo brings innovative transportation technology to the table. Together, they provide cloud-to-cloud integration for real-time load and document integration, driven by load events. This integration ensures invoice document validation using up-to-date data from MasterMind TMS, facilitating auto-approvals, precise exception resolution, alerts, and 24/7 automation. The collaboration aims to enhance billing and payable accuracy, improve back-office efficiency, and utilize live load events for automated exception handling, ultimately saving brokers time and reducing the technical burden on IT teams.



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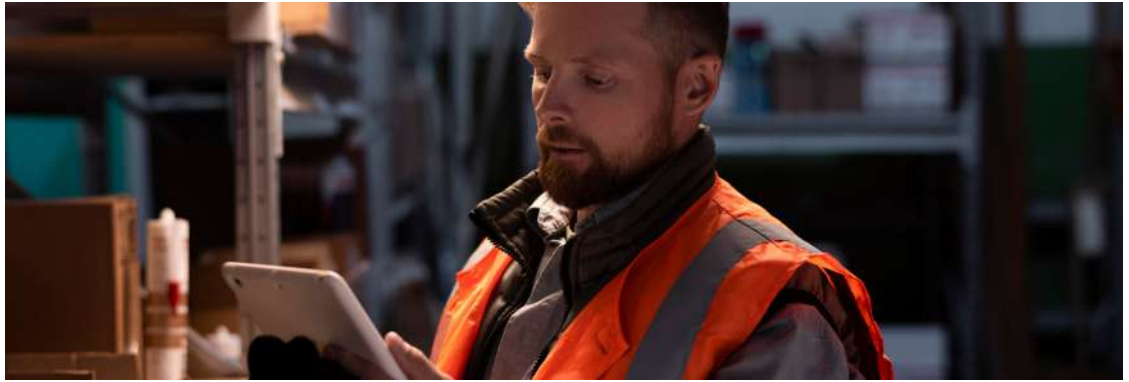




Microsoft Unveils New AI Innovations For Warehouses

Microsoft launched AI-driven solutions for manufacturing, led by Kathleen Mitford, emphasizing AI's transformative role in innovation and sustainability. These solutions integrate operational and IT data, accelerating AI adoption and providing insights to frontline workers through Fabric and copilot templates on Azure AI. Azure IoT Operations modernizes edge infrastructure, enhancing agility and visibility across production lines. New capabilities in Dynamics 365 Field Service streamline operations and improve collaboration for frontline workers. Partnerships with industry leaders like Accenture, Bosch, SAP, and Siemens develop tailored solutions, ensuring resilience and efficiency. Collaboration with Mastery Logistics Systems integrates Workflow AI with MasterMind® TMS, streamlining freight management processes, improving accuracy, efficiency, and automation, and reducing technical burden on brokerage IT teams.





A Fork in the Road: Walmart Bets on Associates, Automation

The Walmart Distribution Center 6020 in Brooksville, Florida, introduces a new autonomous forklift system after a successful 16-month proof of concept. Walmart plans to deploy 19 autonomous forklifts across four high-tech DCs, with potential for further expansion. Developed with Fox Robotics, these forklifts aim to enhance associates' skills and job roles, complementing existing automated systems. Walmart's investment in Fox Robotics underscores its commitment to innovation. AI-powered machine vision enables the forklifts to safely unload pallets, boosting productivity. Associates' roles shift from manual labor to overseeing automation, exemplified by Jose Molina, who now manages the robotics system, increasing output while reducing strain. Walmart emphasizes empowering associates and embracing innovation for business growth and an improved work environment.



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