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# LOGISTICS AROUND THE WORLD IN AUGUST



A newsletter in the field  
of logistics worldwide

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## UK LOGISTICS COMPANY TRIALS DRONE BLOOD DELIVERIES BETWEEN HOSPITALS WITH PROMISING RESULTS

A UK logistics company, Apian, successfully conducted a trial using drones to deliver blood between two hospitals in Northumberland, reducing delivery time and showing no adverse effects on the blood's quality. The trial involved transporting 10 blood packs, half by drone and half by road, with the drone completing the 68-kilometer journey faster. Lab tests confirmed that blood delivered by drone remained safe, highlighting the potential for drones to expedite critical medical deliveries, particularly in urban areas with heavy traffic. The trial's success brings the company closer to gaining approval from the Civil Aviation Authority for wider implementation across the UK. Apian, founded by NHS doctors and a Google Health entrepreneur, seeks to innovate hospital deliveries, aiming to reduce wait times for vital medical supplies.







## **MAERSK PREDICTS GLOBAL TRADE DISRUPTIONS TO PERSIST THROUGHOUT 2024 DUE TO RED SEA CONFLICT**

A.P. Moller-Maersk, a key player in global trade, has warned that disruptions caused by the conflict in the Red Sea will continue through 2024. The company has raised its financial outlook for the third time in three months, projecting underlying earnings of \$9 billion to \$11 billion for the year, driven by increased freight rates. The conflict has forced ships to reroute around Africa, severely impacting global supply chains. Maersk also adjusted its 2024 global container trade growth forecast to 4%-6%, up from 2.5%-4.5%. Despite initial gains, Maersk shares ended the day 0.7% lower in Copenhagen.





## DHL EXPRESS TO INVEST £25 MILLION IN NEW SUSTAINABLE SERVICE CENTRE NEAR CAMBRIDGE

"DHL Express has announced a £25 million investment over the next 15 years in a new service centre near Cambridge. The facility, spanning 125,000 square feet, will feature a £2 million automation system to enhance efficiency and will be powered entirely by renewable energy. Designed to meet growing demand in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and parts of Suffolk, the centre can handle over 50,000 items weekly, with a sorting capacity of 4,000 items per hour. Sustainability is central to the development, with the site equipped with solar panels, electric heating, and charging facilities for 90 electric vans and 20 employee cars.





## PORT OF SEATTLE FACES CYBERATTACK CAUSING AIRPORT DELAYS



"The Port of Seattle is dealing with cyberattack-related outages that have disrupted operations at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. While passenger terminals and security systems remain secure, significant delays are occurring at check-in counters and bag check stations, particularly affecting Frontier, Spirit, Sun Country, and international airlines. The nature of the cyberattack is under investigation with assistance from federal agencies and outside experts. Despite the challenges, only four flights have been canceled so far, and efforts are ongoing to resolve the issue quickly.



# OCEAN FREIGHT RATES STABLE BUT REMAIN HIGH AS PEAK SEASON APPROACHES



Ocean freight rates are stable yet remain high as the peak shipping season nears. Despite easing port congestion in some areas, demand remains robust, particularly in intra-Asia lanes. Shippers face challenges due to vessel diversions caused by the Red Sea conflict, leading to increased capacity on the Asia-Europe route. DHL reports that freight rates will likely stay elevated until the Golden Week. Mixed demand signals persist, with strong outbound demand from Asia, India, and Brazil, while global trade growth is expected to increase slightly in Q4 2024.





# "MAERSK PREDICTS EXTENDED GLOBAL TRADE DISRUPTIONS DUE TO RED SEA CONFLICT"

"A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S anticipates that global trade disruptions caused by the Red Sea conflict will persist through 2024. The company has raised its financial guidance for the third time, projecting earnings between \$9 billion and \$11 billion for the year. The conflict has forced ships to reroute around Africa, significantly impacting global supply chains and increasing freight rates. Maersk also revised its 2024 global container trade growth forecast to 4%-6%. The situation remains volatile, with uncertainties in supply and demand expected to continue affecting trading conditions.





## MIDDLE EAST LEADS RECORD AIR CARGO GROWTH IN JULY 2024

In July 2024, Middle Eastern carriers recorded a 14.7% year-on-year increase in air cargo demand, contributing to a global rise of 13.6%, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The Middle East–Europe trade lane saw exceptional growth, surging by 32.2%. This marks the eighth consecutive month of double-digit growth in air cargo, driven by strong global trade, booming e-commerce, and maritime shipping constraints. Overall, global air cargo capacity increased by 8.3%, with international belly capacity rising by 12.8%.





A composite image representing AI-enhanced logistics. In the background, a white delivery van and a yellow forklift are in a warehouse or port setting. Overlaid on this is a network of white lines connecting various circular icons: a Wi-Fi symbol, a red circle with a white 'X' over a plane, a red circle with a white gift icon, and a blue circle with a white 'X' over a globe. In the foreground, a hand holds a tablet displaying a world map with a red circle and a white 'X' over a plane, and the word 'Logistic' in white text. A finger is pointing at the map on the tablet.

AI

## AI-ENHANCED LOGISTICS TOOL DELIVERED TO U.S. AIR FORCE FOR CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

DEFCON AI has delivered its advanced AI-enhanced decision tool, ARTIV, to the U.S. Air Force's Air Mobility Command. ARTIV is a cloud-native tool designed to help planners test and optimize logistics and transportation strategies ahead of potential crises, such as airport attacks or port disruptions. The tool features a Resiliency Setting with an intelligent Red Agent to identify plan vulnerabilities and allows users to balance cost and effectiveness. This enables the Air Force to train under real-world scenarios, ensuring rapid resource mobilization during operational disruptions.



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