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LOGISTICS AROUND THE WORLD IN APRIL



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SMART WAREHOUSING MARKET TO HIT \$36 BILLION BY 2030 DRIVEN BY E-COMMERCE AND AUTOMATION

Valued at USD 20.06 billion in 2024, the global smart warehousing market is projected to reach USD 36.19 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 10.17%. Driven by e-commerce growth and supply chain optimization, smart warehouses are increasingly adopting automation, AI, IoT, and cloud systems. While large enterprises lead adoption, high initial costs, labor shortages, and system integration complexities challenge wider use. Nonetheless, the benefits in speed, accuracy, and customer satisfaction are pushing adoption. Trends include autonomous robots, AGVs, and drones, alongside real-time IoT control systems. Cloud-based solutions are gaining traction due to scalability and cost-effectiveness. Major players include Honeywell, Siemens, ABB, and SWISSLOG.



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DHL RESUMES HIGH-VALUE SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES

DHL has announced the resumption of shipping high-value parcels to the United States, after suspending them last week due to customs clearance delays resulting from new U.S. regulations.

In a statement issued on Monday, the company said it is resuming international shipments valued over \$800 to U.S. consumers following a constructive dialogue with U.S. authorities to reduce customs clearance time.

The statement added: "The constructive dialogue with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as well as the Departments of Homeland Security and Commerce, along with adjustments to customs regulations, allowed us to resume high-value shipments," according to Reuters.



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WORLD'S FIRST HYDROGEN-POWERED CRUISE SHIP TO "SAIL THE SEAS" SOON

The developers of the world's first hydrogen-powered cruise ship have announced positive developments, signaling further contributions of clean fuel toward achieving carbon neutrality in the maritime shipping sector by 2050. The developers are Italy's Fincantieri, a shipbuilding company, and Switzerland's Viking, a cruise line operator.

The ship, named Viking Libra, is still under construction and is scheduled for delivery in late 2026. According to a press release obtained by the Washington-based Energy Platform, the vessel is capable of sailing and operating with zero emissions, allowing it to access some of the world's most environmentally sensitive regions.

The Viking Libra—the first hydrogen-powered cruise ship—will be 239 meters long and have a gross tonnage of approximately 54,300 tons. It is being built at the Ancona shipyard operated by Fincantieri in Italy and will accommodate 998 passengers across 499 private cabins.



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KUWAIT AND TUNISIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES SIGN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

The President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in Kuwait, Sheikh Hamoud Al-Sabah, and the Director General of Tunisian Civil Aviation, Nidal Souilmi, have officially signed an agreement to regulate air transport between the two countries. The signing took place in the presence of Tunisian Minister of Transport, Rached Al-Amari, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tunisia, Mansour Al-Omar, and members of the Kuwaiti embassy.

The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation between Kuwait and Tunisia in civil aviation, improve air connectivity, ensure aviation safety and security, and develop air services that serve mutual interests.

Sheikh Hamoud Al-Sabah told KUNA that this agreement is part of a series of upcoming agreements to be signed with sisterly and friendly nations. These agreements are designed to ensure the necessary legal and technical procedures for airlines to operate in accordance with mutually agreed terms, thereby safeguarding the rights of both countries and their airlines.

He added that the goal is to support Kuwait's strategy of opening new avenues of cooperation with other countries in alignment with its forward-looking national vision, while also boosting tourism and the aviation sector overall.



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DUBAI ROADS AUTHORITY RECEIVES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CERTIFICATE FOR SOLAR-POWERED ABRA DESIGN

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has received an intellectual property certificate for its first industrial design — the design of the electric abra powered by solar energy. The certificate was granted to the authority's Marine Transport Department within the Public Transport Agency by the Ministry of Economy, the official entity in the United Arab Emirates responsible for issuing intellectual property certificates across various fields.

The RTA affirmed that the key objectives of obtaining this certificate for its first industrial design — the solar-powered electric abra — include: preserving the authority's exclusive rights, ensuring uniqueness and leadership, enabling licensing and franchise rights, and safeguarding the authority's valuable assets.



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DAMEN SHIPYARDS EXPANDS IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

In a move that is expected to give a strong boost to India's strategy to become one of the world's top ten shipbuilding nations by 2030, Dutch shipbuilding company Damen has signed a memorandum of understanding with Indian company Square Port Shipyard to develop its facilities. This will enable the construction of a range of vessels designed by Damen to meet the needs of local and regional markets.

The agreement, signed on April 8, marks Damen's third partnership in the Indian subcontinent.

This MoU comes shortly after Damen signed a similar partnership with Yeoman Marine, an Indian company, to build tugboats—designed by Damen—at Yeoman's facilities in Ratnagiri. In April of last year, Damen had also entered into an agreement to build electric tugboats at the Goa Shipyard Ltd. shipyard.



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UPS' HEALTHCARE LOGISTICS PUSH GETS BOOST FROM ANDLAUER DEAL

UPS has agreed to buy Canada's Andlauer Healthcare Group (AHG) in an all-cash deal worth about US \$1.6 billion (C\$2.2 billion). AHG runs nine distribution centres and 22 transport branches that handle temperature-controlled and other critical logistics for pharmaceutical and medical-device companies across North America. Paying C\$55 per share—a 31 % premium—UPS will fold the network into its rapidly expanding UPS Healthcare unit, adding specialised cold-chain capacity and broader last-mile reach. The transaction, targeted to close in the second half of 2025 pending regulatory and shareholder approvals, supports UPS's plan to double healthcare revenue to US \$20 billion and become the leading provider of complex medical logistics.



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AMAZON PLANS DOZENS OF US WAREHOUSES IN RURAL EXPANSION

Amazon is weighing a \$15 billion program to add roughly 80 logistics sites across U.S. cities and rural towns, most as delivery hubs and some as robot-equipped fulfillment centers. The retailer has invited real-estate partners to pitch 15- to 25-year lease deals, signaling a more asset-light approach after pandemic overspending on space. In a parallel move announced April 30, Amazon will spend more than \$4 billion to triple its rural delivery network to 200 stations by 2026, creating about 100,000 jobs and cutting average delivery times in half for 13,000 ZIP codes. Together, the projects reinforce Amazon's race to out-ship rivals such as Walmart and Target.



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