The AN-124 Ruslan, the world’s biggest serial production aircraft, was first manufactured over 30 years ago for the long-range transportation of super heavy and oversized cargo.

In 1992, the civil modification of the AN-124-100 received its Airworthiness Certificate from the Interstate Aviation Committee and subsequently created a whole new sector in the global air cargo and logistics industry for the commercial transportation of heavyweight and oversized air cargo.

The AN-124-100 Ruslan freighter’s transportation capabilities – including payload size, cargo compartment volume, operating range, and the availability of ramp loading without the requirement for special loading devices – enables Volga-Dnepr Airlines to provide previously ‘impossible’ solutions for single pieces of cargo up to 120 tons in weight.

Today, the AN-124 is recognized as the leading aircraft in its specialist field of operation, providing fast and reliable logistics services for customers in such industry sectors as heavy engineering, oil and gas, automotive and aerospace. It also serves the requirements of international humanitarian aid agencies and governments all over the world.

Volga-Dnepr is the world’s largest operator of AN-124-100s with a fleet of 10 aircraft. To safeguard the long-term future of this unique transport aircraft, Volga-Dnepr is actively leading programs to upgrade the existing fleet of AN-124s and to relaunch serial production of a new generation version of the freighter.

Longitudinal section

The on-board system of overhead cranes allows cargo to be lifted onto the AN-124-100 with a minimum of ground support. Single pieces up to 30 tonnes in weight can be lifted directly from a flat back truck.

Car platform

Volga-Dnepr’s proprietary car loading system is unique. It allows up to 53 conventional cars (i.e. BMW 5 series, VW Passat, Volvo S40) to be carried by the AN-124-100’s patented double-deck system. Alternatively, the aircraft can carry 38 4 x 4 vehicles. Vehicles are simply driven on board the aircraft.

Platform system

The unique and specialist loading equipment allows a single piece of cargo weighing up to 120 tonnes to be carried on the AN-124-100.