

BIG NEWS



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JAPAN'S EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI: A special report

Volga-Dnepr Group played a major role in the relief effort that immediately followed the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan and claimed more than 14,500 lives.

The fast response to the unfolding events in Japan called upon all of Volga-Dnepr's 20 years' experience of providing air cargo deliveries of large, outsize shipments and humanitarian supplies to emergency zones all over the world. Last year alone, the airline operated three urgent flights to Haiti and the Dominican Republic carrying helicopters for rescue work after another earthquake. This was followed later by four more flights with helicopters to Pakistan after devastating floods hit the country.



Volga-Dnepr charity flight is first international civil flight to Sendai after earthquake and flood

Volga-Dnepr Airlines transported a special mobile medical vehicle from Miami, USA, to Sendai in Japan to help survivors of the country's devastating earthquake and tsunami. Volga-Dnepr operated the flight free of charge as a gesture of support to the Japanese people.

The AN-124-100 'Ruslan' freighter flight, which touched down in Japan on April 14th, was the first international civil flight to land at Sendai Airport since flood waters and debris from the tsunami deluged the airport on March 11th. Although the airport was seriously affected by the natural disaster, all the necessary safety conditions were ensured for the landing of the AN-124-100 heavy freighter with its urgently-needed relief load onboard.

Volga-Dnepr chose one of its AN-124-100 cargo aircraft for the flight because of the

non-standard height of the medical vehicle, which exceeded 3.5 metres. The specialist medical van was delivered on behalf of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in the United States. It is designed as a mobile clinic to provide on-the-spot diagnostics and treatment of ophthalmologic diseases in those regions where medical aid is urgently needed because buildings which had housed medical centres were destroyed or badly damaged by the earthquake and flood waters.

Photo courtesy of Miami-Dade Aviation Department.

Daimler Germany sends 20 vehicles to help relief effort

20 vehicles donated by Daimler Germany to Mercedes Benz, Japan, to support the rescue and relief effort, were carried onboard two AN-124 freighter flights from Stuttgart Airport to Tokyo's Narita Airport.

Some of the vehicles are seen here prior to loading onto one of Volga-Dnepr's AN-124s in Germany for the first flight in mid-April.easier."



**JAPAN RELIEF EFFORT UPDATE
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Volga-Dnepr delivers equipment for cooling damaged nuclear plant at Fukushima

Volga Dnepr Airlines operated four flights to Japan with urgent deliveries of large pumps to help in the cooling of the damaged reactors at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

From Stuttgart in Germany, the airline carried a 60-ton truck-mounted pump produced by German-based Putzmeister. The pump's 62-meter boom was to be used to discharge water over the edge of the reactor buildings and into the buildings from above. The pumps may also be used for any necessary concreting work.

On arrival onboard one of Volga-Dnepr's AN-124-100 freighters at Tokyo's Narita Airport, the equipment was transferred to the Tokyo Electric Power Company, which operates the Fukushima nuclear power plant.



The atomic crisis was prompted by the huge earthquake and tsunami, which damaged the power supply to Fukushima and back-up generators failed. This was followed by a number of explosions in the reactor buildings.

In the following days, Volga-Dnepr Airlines delivered three more pumps to Fukushima from Stuttgart (Germany), Atlanta and Los Angeles (USA) using An-124 'Ruslan' freighters.

Quick response from Ericsson keeps open the lines of communication

Communication technology company Ericsson called upon Volga-Dnepr Airlines' logistics expertise for its response to the natural disaster in Japan.

Ericsson was quick to respond to the needs of its customers in Japan to assist with network repair operations following the earthquake and tsunami. This included providing a chartered helicopter and the provisioning of 160 satellite phones for the Tohoku region of northern Japan.

Transport and communications infrastructure in the Tohoku region was severely damaged during the double disaster. Structural damage to roads meant that some areas were only reachable by air transport.

To support Japanese operators, an Ericsson-chartered Bell 205 helicopter was delivered by Volga-Dnepr from Stockholm Arlanda Airport in Sweden to Tokyo's Narita Airport. Crewed by personnel with experience in disaster zones, the helicopter carried Ericsson employees and necessary repair equipment to support network maintenance, rebuilding and repair tasks faced by all of Ericsson's customers. The helicopter was also used by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)



operating in the region to transport goods such as food, water and clothes.

In addition to the helicopter, Ericsson sent 150 satellite telephones to its customer, Softbank Mobile Corp. These were being used to coordinate repair work in areas where mobile communication infrastructure has yet to be restored.

Fredrik Alatalo, President of Ericsson Japan, says Ericsson will continue to support its Japanese customers' efforts to restore communications networks. "We've been in close contact with our

customers since the immediate aftermath of the terrible earthquake and tsunami," he says. "From the outset we have offered our help to customers, with our complete organization in Japan fully committed. Our current efforts, including the chartering of the helicopter and providing satellite phones, are part of that. We will continue to work closely with our customers to support in any way we can."

ERICSSON 



Chicago becomes ABC's first all-cargo route linking the US and Russia

AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC), Russia's largest scheduled cargo airline, has launched services to its first destination in North America with three flights a week to Chicago, becoming the first all-cargo airline with regular flights from the USA to Russia.

The new route will operate from ABC's hub in Moscow to Chicago's O'Hare Airport via Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. AirBridgeCargo will serve Chicago with a Boeing 747-400 freighter offering over 100 tons of cargo capacity per flight.

ABC, part of Volga-Dnepr Group, says it has chosen "the windy city" as its first destination in North America as Chicago is the biggest transport hub in the United States and conveniently situated at the intersection of major international air cargo routes.

"The addition of North America to our growing international network is another key milestone in the history of our company. With this new service, we are ready to offer our customers a truly

worldwide service and the opportunity to deliver their cargo inter-continently. We also become the first all-cargo carrier to offer regular services from the United States to Russia, which can only help trade links between the two countries. As such an important market, the USA has always been on our strategic radar screen as we have increased our aircraft fleet and capability and we are extremely confident it will reinforce our position as a strong, international scheduled cargo airline," said Tatyana Arslanova, Executive President of ABC.

AirBridgeCargo's network covers major markets in Asia (China, Japan and Korea), Europe (the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy and Spain) and now North America (Chicago, USA). All flights are operated via

ABC's hubs at Moscow's Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo airports. The airline has paid particular attention to its choice of cargo and ground handling agents and appointed Menzies Aviation and Swissport respectively at O'Hare International Airport. Since last year, AirBridgeCargo has been represented in the US market by GSSA partner, Network Cargo Systems, and is planning to open its own office in the US by the end of 2011.



Presidential award for ABC's Flight Director

Andrey Zalyautdinov, Flight Director of AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC), has received one of Russia's highest aviation awards for his work in the deployment of new aircraft, professional skills and long-term commitment to the industry.

According to Presidential edict No. 301dd, he has been given the honorary title of 'Honoured Pilot of the Russian Federation'.

Andrey has been with Volga-Dnepr Group for 20 years and has experience in operating aircraft including the An-2, An-12, An-124, An-124-100 and Boeing 747. Since joining the Group, he has successfully performed flights to more than 120 countries and landed at

around 250 airports. This has included highly important flights for the Russian Federation's Ministry of Transport, which requested Andrey's involvement in their projects in recognition of its experience.

Tatyana Arslanova, Executive President of ABC, said: "We all wish to congratulate Andrey on this great Presidential honour. It is a well-deserved award that recognises his highest levels of professionalism and his outstanding contribution to the

successful launch and subsequent strong growth of AirBridgeCargo Airlines. He is a great asset to the Russian and global aviation industry."



Andrey Zalyautdinov
Flight Director
AirBridgeCargo

AirBridgeCargo Airlines wins 'Wings of Russia' national award for the third year in a row



Tatyana Arslanova, Executive President of AirBridgeCargo, and Anton Khodakovsky, Commercial Director of AirBridgeCargo, accepting the 'Wings of Russia' Award

Tatyana Arslanova, Executive President of AirBridgeCargo, said: "The acknowledgement of our company as the best cargo carrier reflects the successful realisation of our 'Cargo Supermarket' strategy. This is based on the well-balanced development and synergy of the Group's two main businesses in charter and scheduled cargo operations, namely Volga-Dnepr Airlines and ABC. It is recognised that the core of each airline lies in its people. Our victory is a tribute to the hard work and professionalism of our multi-national team, each of whom is considered to be an expert in their field and in the region where they are based. Having the right people in the right places is the cornerstone of success for every company."

AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) has won the 'Wings of Russia' national aviation award for the third year in a row for 'Cargo Airline of the Year on Domestic and International Routes.'

More than 600 guests, including top executives of most Russian airlines as well as government officials, Russian and international business and finance representatives, service providers and the media gathered for the official awards ceremony at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in

Moscow. The 'Wings of Russia' annual event is Russia's most prestigious aviation awards ceremony.

This latest recognition takes to 10 the total number of 'Wings of Russia' awards presented to airlines within Volga-Dnepr Group.



Volga-Dnepr joins with Ulyanovsk State University to develop electronic safety management system

Volga-Dnepr Airlines has joined forces with Russia's Ulyanovsk State University on a project to develop an electronic system to support the prevention of air accidents.

Following a tender conducted at the end of 2010 to identify participants for the project, jointly funded by the Russian Ministry of Science and Education and Volga-Dnepr Group,

Leading researchers have been engaged in the work as part of an expert advisory council reporting to Alexey Isaikin, President of Volga-Dnepr Group. Since March, the council has been chaired by Professor Nikolay Makhutov, a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and a prominent specialist in risk and safety management.

The project's main goal is to improve operational safety in the aviation industry using innovative computer modelling and assessment tools that support the introduction of an enhanced preventive risk management concept for flight operations. Safety depends on a great number of factors and the new system will account for these, from consideration of available facilities at an airport to the political situation in a country. This will result in substantial time and cost savings for Volga-Dnepr in its decision-making and ensure the optimal allocation of resources assigned to air safety.

The commercial version of the system will be released in December 2012 with further trial testing to be arranged with Volga-Dnepr Airlines. The electronic safety system is expected to interest both Russian and foreign air carriers.



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