

BIG NEWS



INTERACTIVE BUSINESS NEWS FROM THE HEAVYWEIGHT IN AIRFREIGHT

April 2009 | ISSUE 22



New Maastricht route offers great potential for customers in Asia

AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) has launched a new weekly Boeing 747-400ER freighter flight from Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport to Maastricht, providing a further gateway into Europe for customers in Asia.

The Thursday flight from Moscow is specifically aimed at helping ABC's customers in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing reach other destinations in The Netherlands – AirBridgeCargo already serves Amsterdam – as well as the extensive

business regions in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany.

The potential for freight into Russia from Maastricht is another factor in the launch of the new route.



Tatyana Arslanova, ABC's Executive Senior Vice President, Strategy, Marketing and Sales, said: "We are constantly talking with our customers to identify new markets that offer opportunities for us both. Maastricht is a good choice for us, offering

high quality handling, operating and cost efficiencies, a congestion-free environment and a public road transport network to prime destinations across Europe."

The inaugural flight, operated on April 23rd 2009, was welcomed by members of the local freight forwarding community and media, who were joined by ABC's Regional Director, EMEA, Ludwig Hamburger and his team. He highlighted that ABC's new service is another important step in developing a customer-focused route network and achieving better operating efficiency.



Guatemala welcomes new IL-76

Guatemala in Central America is the latest country to welcome Volga-Dnepr Airlines' new IL-76TD-90VD freighter.

The aircraft was carrying a 31 tonnes rotor that was destined for East Midlands Airport in the UK. The 9.15 x 2.00 x 2.0m rotor is being rebuilt in the UK.



Meet us at Air Cargo Europe

Volga-Dnepr Airlines and AirBridgeCargo Airlines are exhibiting at Air Cargo Europe in Munich from May 12-15. To arrange a meeting with either airline during the event, please email marketing@volga-dnepr.co.uk

Volga-Dnepr completes project to airlift 600 tonnes to Chad

Volga-Dnepr Group has successfully completed a programme of flights for Skylink Aviation carrying 600 tonnes of communications equipment to N'Djamena in the Republic of Chad.

The transportation project began in January and Boeing 747 capacity from the Group's fleet was used for the six flights to N'Djamena. Four services operated from Toronto and two from Amsterdam.

The Group's engineering department, in coordination with Skylink Aviation, developed a special loading technique to allow optimal use of the cargo cabin space.

Close interaction between AirBridgeCargo and Volga-Dnepr Airlines ensured a timely completion of the project and helped to provide the most cost efficient solution for the Group's customer.



Five years of growth and achievement

AirBridgeCargo Airlines has celebrated the fifth anniversary of its first scheduled cargo flight.

On April 23, 2004, Captain Vladimir Grebennikov and his crew operated Boeing 747-200 flight VDA222 from Moscow's Domodedovo Airport to Beijing, China – creating another milestone in the history of Volga-Dnepr Group.

Since then, AirBridgeCargo Airlines has grown rapidly. Today, its fleet includes three new Boeing 747-400ER Freighters, one B747-300F and two B747-200Fs operating from major airports in Europe, including Frankfurt and Amsterdam, to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tokyo via hubs at Moscow's two main airports.

AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) was the first Russia-based airline to start operations on Europe-Russia-Asia air routes using Boeing 747 freighter aircraft and also enjoys strategic partnerships and interline agreements with other major international airlines. It was awarded its own AOC in 2006.

In Frankfurt, where ABC offers 13 Boeing 747F flights a week to Russia and Asia, AirBridgeCargo was the second largest carrier of air cargo in the first quarter of 2009 after Lufthansa Cargo, according to Fraport. ABC carried nearly 17,000 tonnes of cargo in the three months to March 31st.



AirBridgeCargo Airlines wins prestigious 'Wings of Russia' award

AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC), the scheduled cargo business of Volga-Dnepr Group, has won the prestigious 'Wings of Russia Award' for 'Airline of the Year – Cargo Carrier Operating in Domestic and International Air Lines'.

The airline won the accolade based on its growth and development in 2008 and the balanced strategy applied to its development by Volga-Dnepr Group. In 2008, ABC achieved substantial growth in its core operational performance: sales grew by 49% to US\$452 million and freight turnover reached 1,102 thousand FTK's. Major factors that contributed to AirBridgeCargo's growth in 2008 were a new structure for its sales system to considerably enhance its efficiency and the airline's expanded route network.

"The key to success for a young airline like



single business structure," noted Executive President of AirBridgeCargo Airlines, Alexey Isaikin.

AirBridgeCargo received its Wings of Russia Award at a special ceremony held at the Renaissance Hotel in Moscow. Traditionally,

AirBridgeCargo was the overall success shown by the whole of Volga-Dnepr Group. This was secured through a combination of charter and scheduled operations within a

winners are chosen by way of secret voting by members of the Public Award Board, which comprises more than 120 civil aviation experts, officials of aviation authorities, representatives of state-owned and private companies and mass media agencies.

Over 50 Russian carriers compete annually for the 'Wings of Russia' awards in 10 categories.



VOLGA-DNEPR AIRLINES



Please contact us on:

UK: +44 1279 66 11 66
Russia: +7 8422 59 00 59

USA: +1 832 585 8611
U.S.Toll Free: 877 548 5547

Sharjah: +971 655 710 31
China: +861 0844 755 02

www.volga-dnepr.com