

# BIG NEWS



INTERACTIVE BUSINESS NEWS FROM THE HEAVYWEIGHT IN AIRFREIGHT

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## Volga-Dnepr assists Russian Space Program



Volga-Dnepr Airlines has assisted the Russian Space Program by delivering a Meteor-M satellite to its launch pad in Baikonour.

The satellite together with its launch equipment amounted to a total cargo weight of 50 tons.

The meticulous loading operation took place through the night in order that the Russian aircraft met its scheduled delivery to Baikonour on 23rd July 2009. The hi-tech cargo was shipped onboard an AN124-100 freighter from Ramenskoye Airport to Yubileiny Airport, Kazakhstan. Having

been packed in a specialized container, the Meteor-M satellite was loaded through the freighter's aft cargo door. Specialists were able to monitor temperature, pressure, humidity and load throughout the journey using sensors placed inside the container.

Meteor-M is a component of the Meteor-3M space exploration project. It will comprise one of a series of advanced satellites collecting hydrometeorological and heliogeophysical data. Its launch is intended for mid-September 2009 and it is expected to orbit the earth for the next five years.

## Volga-Dnepr Group shows the way for Russian cargo carriers

Half-year 2009 traffic figures for Volga-Dnepr Group, the leading Russian charter and scheduled cargo airline operator, shows it is weathering the economic downturn better than its Russian competitors.

Volga-Dnepr has reported a 5% drop to 835,000 ton/kilometers for the six months ended June 30th, 2009. It says other Russian carriers faced an average decline of between 19% and 23% in domestic and international operations over the period..

- AirBridgeCargo Airlines, the Group's scheduled cargo airline, saw its turnover increase for the half year by 5% to achieve 551,000 ton/kilometres.
- Over the six month period, AirBridgeCargo transported 65,100 tons of freight, a year-on-year increase in performance of 4.6%
- AirBridgeCargo Airlines added three new European destinations to its network during this time; Maastricht (Netherlands), Milan (Italy), Saragossa (Spain)

- Charter freight turnover reduced to 284,000 ton/kilometres between January-June
- Total cargo tonnage delivered by Volga-Dnepr Airlines' AN-124-100 freighter fleet increased by 1.2% to achieve 37,800 tons
- The percentage of the Group's turnover from long-term contracts reached 61%



Commenting on the half-year results, Alexey Isaikin, President of Volga-Dnepr Group, said the Group had been able to remain stable in such a challenging global market by sticking to its

strategic goals and continuing to successfully develop its 'Cargo Supermarket' business model, which offers customers a unique and comprehensive package of logistic services for both charter and scheduled air services.

This approach has enabled the Group to use its aircraft fleet capabilities - consisting of the most competitive Russian and foreign made freighters - most efficiently. He added that the synergy between the Group's two main businesses for scheduled and charter cargo operations will continue to guarantee Volga-Dnepr's stability during the current economic crisis.



## ABC launches charter service to Kabul

**AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) has launched a charter Boeing 747 freighter service to Kabul, Afghanistan.**

The first flight operated on July 14th. From now on, ABC will operate every Tuesday using Boeing 747-200/300 cargo aircraft. The flight will arrive early on Wednesday mornings in Afghanistan and offers some 100 tons of capacity. The city will be used as a connection to ABC's existing network.



The first flight carried armoured vehicles which were offloaded on arrival by Ariana, the local handling agent in Kabul.

Dennis Gliznoutsa, Volga-Dnepr's Group Commercial

Director (Charters), stated: "Despite the fact that volumes are down worldwide, the Middle East is still a vast and attractive marketplace for the Group. During these unpredictable times, we believe operating from Europe to Kabul will provide new opportunities for ABC."

The route provides another good example of the synergy between Volga-Dnepr Airlines and AirBridgeCargo. Volga-Dnepr has successfully performed AN-124 and IL-76 charter operations to Afghanistan for the past 10 years.

## ABC carries top British racehorse for President Stakes in Moscow



AirBridgeCargo Airlines' Boeing 747 scheduled cargo flights from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport for the journey to Moscow. The race, for 12 four-year-old racehorses, attracts competitors from across the CIS, including Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova.

This latest bloodstock flight follows a series of five services between the Netherlands and Russia by ABC carrying 105 elite racehorses that are being studied for a special breeding program in Moscow.

**AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) reinforced its reputation as a leading carrier of bloodstock by transporting British-trained racehorse, Bronze Cannon, to Russia to compete in the prestigious President Stakes.**

It is the first time in four years that a British horse has competed in the race in Moscow, which offers a 7 million rouble prize to the winner. Bronze Cannon travelled to Russia after winning the Hardwicke Stakes at the UK's Royal Ascot race meeting.

The horse was loaded onto one of

## AirBridgeCargo expands Europe-Russia network with launch of Milan-Moscow

**AirBridgeCargo Airlines (ABC) has expanded its all-cargo services from Europe to Russia with a new route between Milan, Italy and Moscow.**

The Boeing 747 freighter now departs from Malpensa Airport for Moscow every Monday and Friday as an extension of the airline's Amsterdam service and provides further flight over Moscow to the Chinese cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, offering up to 112 tons of capacity. In Moscow, ABC will offer its customers the possibility to deliver cargo to two out of three warehouses: Sheremetyevo 1 and Sheremetyevo 2.

ABC currently operates 31 flights a week to and from Moscow's Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo airports, linking Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Budapest and Zaragoza with Beijing, Shanghai, Narita and Hong Kong. The airline also operates scheduled all-cargo services to Krasnoyarsk in Russia.



Tatyana Arslanova, ABC's Executive Senior Vice President, Strategy, Marketing and Sales, said: "We will continue to expand

our operations where ABC and its customers see opportunities to do so. In Milan, we have succeeded in gaining a strong, regular commitment from the local freight forwarding industry and we are therefore pleased to be able to support them with the launch of this new service."

## Helping cholera victims in Uganda

**AirBridgeCargo delivered over 100,000 kilos of relief cargo in June to help victims of cholera in Uganda.**

The Boeing 747 flight from Moscow to Entebbe carried tents, blankets and power generation equipment and was Russia's contribution to a mobile hospital in the region. The charter was operated on behalf of EMERCOM.



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