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# Cargosupermarket

# Russia' Volga Dnepr forecast sustainable demand for air freight

by Maxim Pyadushkin



While Russia's passenger air traffic has been almost halted because of coronavirus restrictions, the country's largest cargo carrier Volga-Dnepr Group is working in full force now helping to combat the pandemic in home country and worldwide. The company forecast that the recovery will not be quick, but it will trigger sustainable demand for air freight services.

"This is a time for cargo aviation", Konstantin Vekshin, the Group's Executive President on Charter Cargo Operations said in an exclusive interview to Aviation Week. He explained that the rapid growth of orders took place since March, and all airlines of Volga-Dnepr Group have now been fully booked for a month ahead.

The Group's parent airline pioneered with use of Antonov An-124 super heavy transport aircraft for commercial cargo operations. It's now the world's largest operator of this type with nine An-124s in its fleet. Besides, Volga-Dnepr flies five smaller Ilyushin Il-76 transports.

But the largest subsidiary of the Group is a regular cargo carrier AirBridgeCargo (ABC) with a fleet of 19 Boeing 747-400F/8Fs. The regional cargo destinations are served by ATRAN Airlines that operates five converted Boeing 737-400/800 freighters.

According to the latest statistics by Russian aviation authorities, the Group has carried more than 60 thousand tons of cargo in January-February. This made 40 percent of total Russian cargo traffic for that period.



Executive President on Charter Cargo Operations,  
Volga-Dnepr Group





## Volga-Dnepr Airlines has asked the U.S. DOT to authorize a domestic U.S. flight

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Volga-Dnepr Airlines has asked the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to authorize a domestic U.S. flight using its gigantic AN-124-100 cargo plane to transport an Atlas V rocket booster tank for a space mission. According to the application filed this week, the 65,000-pound payload is too large to be accommodated by any U.S. commercial aircraft.

Volga-Dnepr has authority to operate between overseas locations and the U.S., but under U.S. aviation law foreign carriers are not permitted to make commercial flights within the country.

The Russian airline said its services are urgently needed to deliver the Atlas V fuel tank from Huntsville, Alabama, to NASA's Shuttle Landing Facility in Titusville, Florida, or Cape Canaveral, Florida, in mid-May.

*Source: American Shipper*



# Volga-Dnepr Group Airlines executed an urgent delivery of mobile ICU

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Volga-Dnepr Airlines and Hospitainer Netherlands are co-operating for the urgent air cargo delivery of mobile ICU units to the Dutch Antilles island of Sint Maarten.

The first flight in the program was to deliver 3 x 20ft Mobile medical units, part of the 3 x 2 Hospitainer ICU hospital system which totally consists of 6 x 20ft containers with a lobby system in the middle.

The first set of 3 containers from the ICU system were loaded into a Volga-Dnepr Group IL76-TD-90VD freighter in Maastricht airport and flown to Sint Maarten airport.

The 6-Bed ICU units includes a nursing post and will be later installed on the neighboring smaller island of St Eustatius. The units are engineered and produced in the Netherlands by order of the Dutch Government and will be later set-up by a team of local and Hospitainer engineers. The companies will later co-operate on the transportation of the larger 40ft ICU bed facility systems, which will also include a nursing station in the middle. The larger 40ft system will stay on St Maarten island on behalf of the island's medical center.





# AirBridgeCargo plane carrying PPE kits arrived in Scotland from China

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Infusion pumps for intensive care units and laboratory kits are also listed among the cargo items, which have arrived at Prestwick Airport. It comes amid concern from NHS staff and care home operators about the availability of protective equipment.

The Scottish government said it was working to ensure staff got the right personal protective equipment (PPE).

Trade and Investment Minister, Ivan McKee, said protecting staff working on the frontline was an "absolute priority", which government had been "working at pace with the NHS and manufacturers to improve and increase the supply of PPE.

He added: "This charter flight, carrying additional equipment ordered by the Scottish government, is significant and we will be focusing the distribution of these supplies to health and social care settings over the coming days."

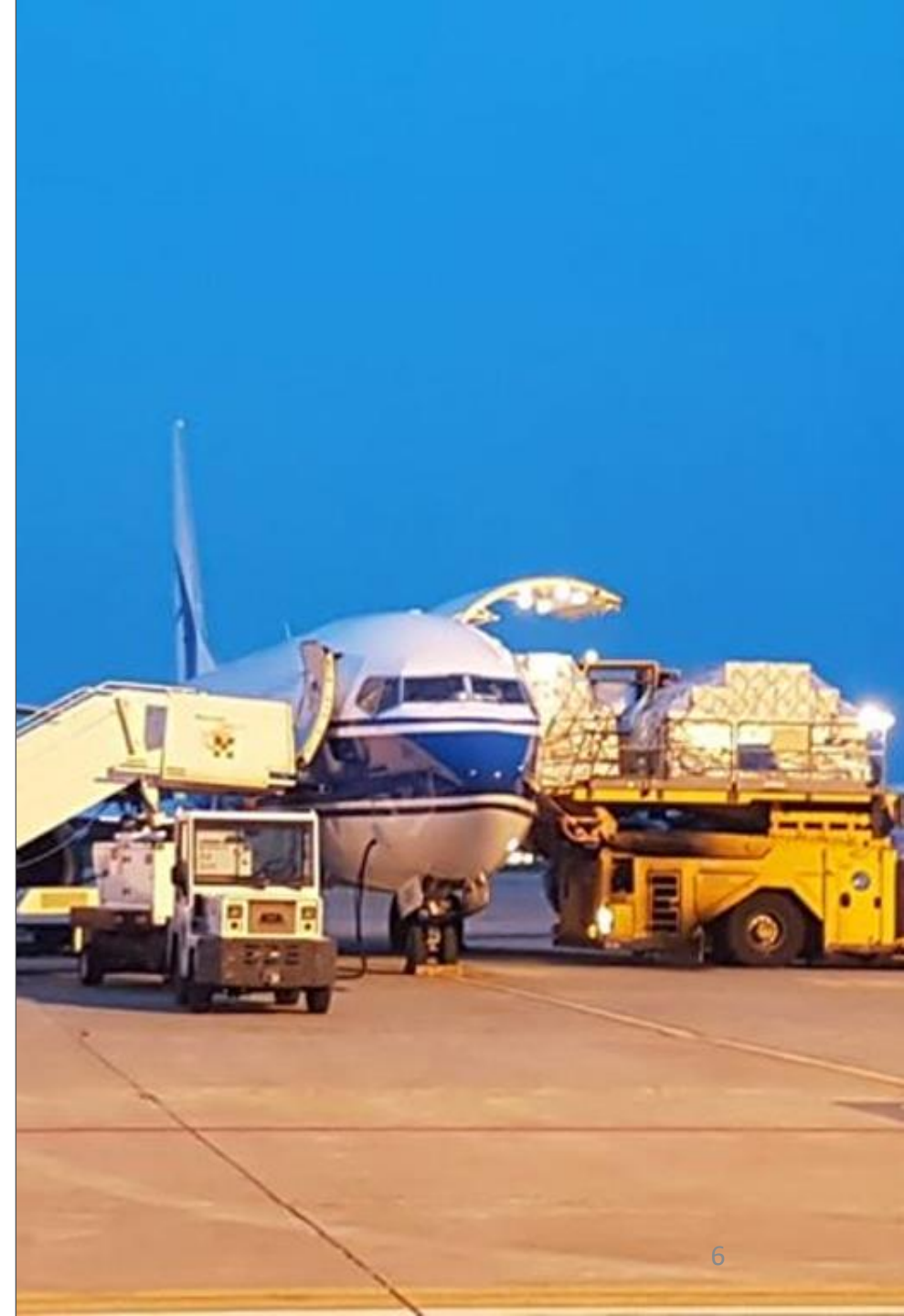
Jim Miller, director of procurement, commissioning and facilities at NHS National Services Scotland (NSS), said: "This delivery is the result of a painstaking collective effort involving multiple partners working together to provide our NHS and social care colleagues with the PPE they need to keep them safe."

*Source: BBC*

# ATRAN LLC delivered medical supplies to Bologna airport

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ATRAN LLC carried out the fourth cargo flight to Bologna airport and delivered medical supplies for the personnel fighting on the front line against COVID-19. This time almost 12t of medical masks were transferred from China that will be used in the Emilia-Romagna region then.







# ABC plane arrived in Madrid with 113 tons of medical equipment

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The President of the Community of Madrid, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, received a third plane from China, with up to 113 tons of medical material to protect professionals and patients from the coronavirus in the region's hospitals. This is the largest cargo registered so far that has reached Spain.

The freight has been carried out in a Boeing 747 Jumbo arrived from Shanghai Pudong International Airport and joined the previous two received last week with totally 140 tons on board.

In total, more than 253 tons of sanitary material have arrived in the Community of Madrid in 10 days to fight the coronavirus on board three flights. Díaz Ayuso, who has been directly responsible for managing the arrival of supplies from abroad during this last month, personally met the plane at the airport.

*Source: Larazon*



# Market Overview

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## WHO picks Liege Airport as European hub to move critical medical supplies

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Liege cargo airport has been selected by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of eight hubs of distribution for medical supplies critical for countries fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

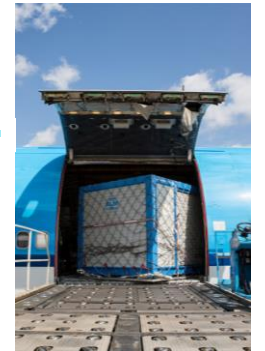
*Source: Stat Trade Times*

## KLM Brings The Boeing 747 Out Of Retirement For Cargo Flights

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KLM brings two Boeing 747 combis back into service. These have the ability to carry freight on the passenger deck, unlike most 747s.

*Source: Simple Flying*



## GECAS Cancels 69 Boeing 737 MAX Orders

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GECAS has canceled 69 Boeing 737 MAX orders “to rebalance the lessor’s skyline order book for 737 MAX aircraft.” The aircraft canceled represent 38% of the company’s total Boeing 737 MAX order.

*Source: Simple Flying*



## Israel's El Al in loan talks, signs cargo flight deal

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El Al Israel Airlines is in advanced talks with an Israeli bank to receive a loan and signed a deal with logistics firm Kühne + Nagel to fly equipment to fight the coronavirus between China and Italy.

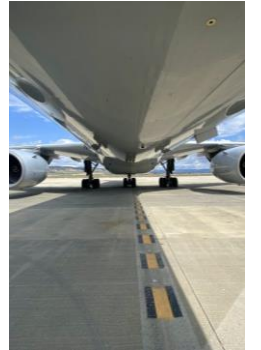
*Source: Reuters*

## Lufthansa is parking all of its Airbus A340 in Spain

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Lufthansa is further reducing its fleet. All Airbus A340-600 are parked in the east of Spain for at least one year. A return is uncertain.

*Source: aeroTELEGRAPH*



## Boeing restarts production of commercial airplanes at Seattle factories

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Boeing this week is restarting production of commercial airplanes in the Seattle area, putting about 27,000 people back to work after operations were halted

*Source: Daily Mail*

