

Press Release

15 July 2017

KLM Cargo launches innovative sorting system

KLM Cargo last Thursday officially launched a new sorting system that can handle more than 2,000 items per hour, bound for more than 70 destinations. The system was built in cooperation with Lödige Industries and Vanderlande. The innovative sorter allows for faster handling of all post, express and pharmaceutical consignments.

“E-commerce is a fast-growing branch in the cargo industry. This innovative system allows us to keep pace with the rapid increase in post and express consignments. The system is faster and smarter, allowing us to offer better service to our customers.”

Marcel de Nooijer, EVP KLM Cargo

Bertholt Leeftink, director - general Enterprise and Innovation of the ministry of Economic Affairs and Kajsa Ollongren, alderman of the municipality of Amsterdam, officially launched the sorter today with help of Marcel de Nooijer, EVP KLM Cargo, and Pieter Elbers, KLM president and CEO.

Air France and KLM are the world's first airlines to make use of this kind of sorting system. In Paris, the system has already been a great success since its launch in April 2015. KLM opted for a same kind of system, but had to make various innovative adjustments owing to a lack of space.

To make space for a new pier at Schiphol, one of KLM Cargo's three warehouses had to be partly demolished. The main challenge in building the sorting system lay in accommodating existing cargo processes in 50% of the floor space. This was achieved, in part, by scaling up vertically. The storage space for containers has doubled, ensuring that there is space for growth.

Together, KLM and Air France are the world's fifth-largest air cargo carrier. Every year, KLM and its partners carry 928 kilotons of cargo. Schiphol is Europe's third-largest air cargo hub, after Frankfurt and Paris.

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About the Air France KLM Group

The Air France KLM Group is a global airline group with a strong European base. Its main areas of business are passenger transport, cargo transport and aeronautical maintenance.

Air France KLM is the leading group in international air traffic from its hubs Paris Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, which are ranked among the Top Three European cargo hubs. With a fleet of 534 aircraft and 93.4 million passengers carried in 2016, Air France KLM provides service to 320 destinations in 114 countries.

AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo is the Air France KLM Group's dedicated air cargo business. Our three airlines offer the industry more than a thousand weekly frequencies to 127 destinations. In 2016, AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo transported 1.1 million tonnes of cargo. In addition to the Group's global network of passenger aircraft, we offer cargo main deck capacity on two Boeing 777 Freighters, four Boeing 747-400 Freighters and nine Boeing 747-400 Combi aircraft.

AFKLMP Cargo offers a wide range of product solutions to cater to demanding customers' needs. In 2016, both hubs – Paris Charles De Gaulle (CDG) and Amsterdam Schiphol (AMS) – obtained the CEIV certification, providing service excellence to the pharmaceutical industry.

For express cargo, Air France Cargo launched a brand new automated hub at CDG, combining proximity to the aircraft parking positions and a sorting capability of 6,000 parcels an hour. A brand new sorter is also due to open at AMS in the course of 2017.

In 2016, AFKLMP cargo also opened a brand new warehouse at New York JFK airport with the capacity to handle all types of cargo, from general to verticals. The facility is located next door to The Ark at JFK, a new terminal entirely dedicated to live animal logistics.

In 2017, AFKLMP Cargo intends to strengthen and expand its digital footprint with a wide range of innovative solutions. Using myCargo, customers will benefit from an innovative online dashboard customised to their specific needs. This goes hand-in-hand with systems allowing online quotes and bookings, multilingual websites and other developments designed to ease the journey for our customers.

Air France KLM Cargo is a member of SkyTeam Cargo (www.skyteamcargo.com) offering an even larger network coverage. Special partnerships include Air Mauritius Cargo, Alitalia Cargo, Delta Cargo, Etihad Cargo and Kenya Airways Cargo.

For more information about AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo, please visit www.afklcargo.com.

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