

DHL Global Forwarding to utilize the UAE National Rail Network as one of its primary modes of transportation for its operations within the UAE

- The first commercial partnership with Etihad Rail since the network became operational for freight services
- The partnership will enable DHL Global Forwarding to use rail to conduct its main operations and distribute goods throughout the UAE

Bonn, Germany/Abu Dhabi, UAE, 16th May 2023: DHL Global Forwarding, the air and ocean freight specialist of Deutsche Post DHL Group, and Etihad Rail, the developer and operator of the UAE National Rail Network, have signed a strategic partnership agreement at Middle East Rail, located in Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC). The agreement will see the establishment of a joint venture company that will enable DHL Global Forwarding to use Etihad Rail's network to conduct its main operations within the UAE.

Under the terms of the agreement, DHL Global Forwarding will adopt rail one of its primary modes of transportation to distribute goods throughout the UAE, via the railway network which links key industrial hubs.

The newly formed joint venture company will further strengthen the sustainable freight offering within the UAE, operating across the Etihad Rail Network. The agreement is expected to significantly reduce pressures on road transport and boost trade, commerce, and logistics in the UAE, whilst also playing a key role in helping the UAE meet its environmental responsibility commitments.

The ambitious 20-year partnership between DHL and Etihad Rail will deliver significant benefits for businesses, optimising use of time and resources, reducing costs and more efficient asset management. Furthermore, the partnership will strengthen end-to-end logistics and supply chain services for customers in the region. DHL's robust rail freight products offer secure and reliable transportation, and is also an environmentally friendly alternative to cargo transportation via road or air freight.

With rail considered to be one of the most sustainable modes of transport, Etihad Rail is committed to contributing to the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative, whereby the UAE National Rail Network will contribute to reducing carbon emissions in the road transport sector by 21% by 2050, and each train trip will remove up to 300 trucks off the road.

Amadou Diallo, CEO Middle East & Africa, DHL Global Forwarding, said: “The UAE’s increasing focus on infrastructural investment in the logistics sector, and DHL Global Forwarding is excited to be part of this journey to support growing capacity requirements through rail freight. Our decades of expertise in rail and multimodal transport solutions, providing fast, secure, and cost-effective connections, make us the right partner to support the development of the railway industry in the UAE.”

Gottfried Eymer, CEO of Etihad Rail Freight, accentuated around the partnership: “We welcome DHL Global Forwarding as a key partner for Etihad Rail as we embark on fulfilling our ambitious targets. With freight operations operational since February, Etihad Rail is pleased to introduce further sustainable transport models within the UAE and continue to stimulate economic growth and sustained social development in the region.”

The agreement between Etihad Rail and DHL Global Forwarding is one of the largest collaborations for the transport industry and showcases the respective organization’s commitment to the UAE’s sustainability agenda.

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DHL – The logistics company for the world

DHL is the leading global brand in the logistics industry. Our DHL divisions offer an unrivalled portfolio of logistics services ranging from national and international parcel delivery, e-commerce shipping and fulfillment solutions, international express, road, air and ocean transport to industrial supply chain management. With about 395,000 employees in more than 220 countries and territories worldwide, DHL connects people and businesses securely and reliably, enabling global sustainable trade flows. With specialized solutions for growth markets and industries including technology, life sciences and healthcare, engineering, manufacturing & energy, auto-mobility and retail, DHL is decisively positioned as “The logistics company for the world”.

DHL is part of Deutsche Post DHL Group. The Group generated revenues of more than 94 billion euros in 2022. With sustainable business practices and a commitment to society and the environment, the Group makes a positive contribution to the world. Deutsche Post DHL Group aims to achieve net-zero emissions logistics by 2050.

About Etihad Rail:

Construction on the network expansion to connect the emirates spanning across the entire UAE, from Ghuwaifat on the border with Saudi Arabia to Fujairah on the eastern coast, began in January 2020. In February 2023, the UAE National Rail Network was inaugurated following its completion whilst also marking the launch of freight operations in the UAE.

The National Rail Network now links all emirates, connecting residential, industrial, and commercial centres with four key ports across the UAE. This includes seven logistic centres located in Ruways, the Industrial City of Abu Dhabi (ICAD), Khalifa Port, Dubai Industrial City (DIC), Jebel Ali Port, Al Ghayel Dry Port, and Fujairah Port.

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