

Groundbreaking for new DHL Global Forwarding air freight center at Frankfurt Airport

- DHL Global Forwarding expands and modernizes its biggest German air freight facility
- Further milestone in the development of Europe's leading air cargo hub

Bonn, February 6, 2024: DHL Global Forwarding, the air and ocean freight specialist of DHL Group, and Fraport AG, the owner and operator of Frankfurt Airport (FRA), today officially began construction of a new air freight center at Frankfurt Airport. Tobias Schmidt, the CEO of DHL Global Forwarding Europe, and Anke Giesen, Fraport AG's Executive Director Retail and Real Estate, led the official groundbreaking ceremony at Frankfurt Airport's CargoCity South.

With the new air freight center, Fraport is developing a further site at CargoCity South in the immediate vicinity of Airport Gate 31. The new building on the approximately 55,000 square meter property will take about twelve months to complete. DHL Global Forwarding is expected to inaugurate the air cargo center in mid-2025. At this site, the company will primarily handle air freight for its German and international customers and manage charter flights with its in-house service provider StarBroker. The new cargo center and office complex will partly supplement the existing airport location, and offers not just additional transshipment space, but also room for the new StarBroker European headquarters of DHL Global Forwarding.

"Located in the heart of Europe, Frankfurt Airport is of central importance as an international hub for our global air freight network," explains the CEO of DHL Global Forwarding Europe, Tobias Schmidt. "We're very pleased that we were able to develop a larger, more sustainable site in close cooperation with Fraport. The newly created space will enable us to handle greater transport volumes for our customers even more quickly and efficiently."

Construction of the state-of-the-art cargo center represents a further milestone in the successful development of Frankfurt Airport as a cargo and air freight hub. The latest ecological criteria play a crucial role in the new building. Overall, the new building at CargoCity South will provide about 24,500 square meters of new hall space and 3,000 square meters of flexible office and social space. The new complex also includes adequately dimensioned freight yards, 25 truck parking spaces and some 185 car parking spaces. Upon completion, the hall will have a total of 54 gates and cross-docks with generously dimensioned driving and shunting areas and additional, separate outdoor parking for trucks. The property is owned by Fraport AG and leased to DHL Global Forwarding.

Press release

“Today’s groundbreaking of this first-class air cargo center is part of the continuous development of Frankfurt Airport as Europe’s leading air freight hub,” explains Anke Giesen, Executive Director Retail and Real Estate at Fraport AG. “This building will meet the strictest ecological and economic requirements for modern freight handling facilities. As such, it will put our future tenant DHL Global Forwarding in the best position to take its air freight business to the next level. The realization of this complex project is also a testament to the extraordinarily broad portfolio and proven expertise of Fraport’s real estate development team.”

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You can find the press release for download as well as further information on group.dhl.com/pressreleases

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Press release

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 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. DHL Group aims to achieve net-zero emissions logistics by 2050.

“About Fraport AG and Frankfurt Airport

Headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany, [Fraport AG](#) (Frankfurt Stock Exchange, MDAX) is one of the world leading players in the global airport business. Fraport’s portfolio of companies spans four continents with activities at 30 airports worldwide. In pre-pandemic 2019, the Group generated €3.7 billion in revenue and about €454 million in profit. More than 182 million passengers used airports actively managed by Fraport in 2019. Recovering from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, Fraport’s Group airports welcomed about 168 million passengers in 2023. Fraport AG generated revenue of €3.2 billion and profit of some €167 million in fiscal year 2022 (Dec. 31).

Fraport’s home-base Frankfurt Airport (FRA) is strategically located in the heart of Europe at the junction of vital intermodal road, rail and air networks. The surrounding Frankfurt Rhine-Main-Neckar region serves as an economic powerhouse and logistics hub for Europe and the world. In 2019, FRA welcomed more than 70.5 million passengers and handled about 2.1 million metric tons of cargo. After the pandemic, traffic recovered to 59.4 million passengers in 2023, while cargo volumes reached 1.9 million metric tons.”