



**Press release**

London, 9 October 2018

### **AirBridgeCargo Airlines to set up its European hub at Liege Airport**

**Liege Airport and AirBridgeCargo Airlines have signed an historic lease agreement for 10 years. This arrangement will bring the scale of cooperation between two companies to the next level of development, boosting air cargo volumes of ABC to/from the airport and placing Liege Airport among the top 5 cargo airports in Europe by 2020.**

The agreement comes as a logical extension of Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed between Liege Airport and Volga-Dnepr Group earlier this year during the Farnborough International Airshow 2018 in July, and will contribute to the development of the regional economy in general, creating numerous amounts of jobs and favouring growth of air cargo sector, and the airport development in particular, heating up cargo infrastructure and freight flows to/from the airport.

Under new agreement AirBridgeCargo will lease warehouse premises for the total area of 25,000 sq. m. for effective and seamless cargo operations in the airport. The investment amounts to 25 million euros and includes 2,000 sq. m. of office space to guarantee smooth daily flight management.

The project will be divided into two phases, with the first one to be launched in June 2019 when AirBridgeCargo will have its first 12,500 sq. m. warehouse. The second phase will commence in early 2020 with the rest of warehouse premises to follow. At the same time, the Walloon Airports Company (Société Wallonne des Aéroports - SOWAER) is building four new aircraft stands to accommodate growing AirBridgeCargo fleet.

#### **A new dimension**

For Luc Partoune, CEO of Liege Airport, this agreement takes the airport into a new dimension: *"We welcomed the first flights in October 2017 because AirBridgeCargo had to reduce its presence in Amsterdam. Then we responded to their call for tenders launched earlier this year for the creation of their European hub. They liked the cargo DNA of Liege Airport. We had strong political support at both the federal and regional levels. AirBridgeCargo sees opportunities for expansion, can count on a quality workforce and rely on efficient Belgian customs. Thanks to AirBridgeCargo, we plan to reach one million metric tonnes by 2020 and become one of the top 5 cargo airports in Europe."*



Virtual view of AirBridgeCargo's warehouses and aircrafts parkings (copyright Miysis).

For Sergey Lazarev, General Director of AirBridgeCargo, this agreement represents numerous advantages for the customers: « *It's been a year since we have been operating to Liege and we are delighted to see that our partnership is reaching a new height. This step is another milestone which goes in line with the development of strategic cooperation between Liege airport and Volga-Dnepr Group, which signed MoU during FIA2018. With the lease of dedicated warehouse facilities for the next 10 years and ABC's intention to increase the number of weekly flights to Liege up to 30 within the next 1.5 years, AirBridgeCargo will be able to leverage growing market demand for special cargoes, especially e-commerce shipments. An agreement of this size comes with a number of benefits not only for ABC but also for our customers, who will get more frequency options and high level of service quality* ».



#### **About the Volga-Dnepr Group:**

The Volga-Dnepr Group (VDG) is the world's leading group of air carriers in heavy-lift transportations. For more than 28 years, VDG has transformed transport and air logistics, providing its customers with the most cost-efficient and effective logistics solutions. The projects shipments are originated from various industrial sectors (aerospace, oil, cars, energy etc.). Currently VDG has three independent airline companies - Volga-Dnepr, AirBridgeCargo and Atran - which provide both charter and scheduled cargo operations according to the needs and requirements of their customers worldwide (Boeing 747F, Boeing 737F, Antonov etc.).

Further information at: <https://www.volga-dnepr.com>

#### **About AirBridgeCargo Airlines:**

AirBridgeCargo, part of the Volga-Dnepr Group, is the largest Russian cargo airline and one of the major cargo players in the world. It operates scheduled flights between Russia, Asia, Europe and North America, and covers more than 30 destinations worldwide. The global hub of AirBridgeCargo is based at Sheremetyevo International Airport in Moscow. The company guarantees seamless transportation of any type of cargo, including special cargoes – pharmaceuticals, heavy and oversized, dangerous goods, perishables, and others.

Further information at: <https://www.airbridgecargo.com/en>

#### **About Liege Airport:**

Liege Airport, Belgium's biggest cargo airport, is the most specialized cargo platform in the heart of the Amsterdam-Paris-Frankfurt golden triangle. Having a product-driven development strategy it positions itself as the easy in & out cargo hub for Central Europe. Specialized in express freight, e-commerce, pharmaceutical and perishables products, as well as in live animals, each specific procedure guarantees the fastest throughput time on the market. Liege Airport, the Flexport® is less than one day by truck from the largest European cities, thus reaching around 400 million consumers. Besides offering an uncongested 24/7 operational airport it also offers the advantage of an excellent, uncongested motorway network.

Further information at: <https://www.liegeairport.com/flexport/en/>