



The 'Forem' and Liege Airport: Taking training to new heights

As part of the airport's continuing development, Liege Airport and the 'Forem' have joined forces in response to the personnel needs of handling companies: specific training courses have been organised to support the creation of 430 jobs.

Goods handlers LACHS, Aviapartner and Swissport are expanding and are recruiting a range of positions. To support and assist this growth, Liege Airport and the 'Forem', in a joint Task Force, are organising training courses in response to their human resources needs. As a result, 430 local job seekers will have the opportunity of finding employment.

At this point, 3 jobs are involved:

- Ramp Agent
- Cargo Warehouse Agent
- Cargo Office Employee

The first courses will train Cargo Warehouse Agents. This 8-week training course at the 'Centre de compétence Forem Logistique Liège' (Skills Centre Forem Logistics Liege), will conclude with a 4-week work placement with LACHS, Aviapartner or Swissport, who are all actively involved. Once training is complete, the trainee will leave with a full fork-lift operator qualification and with the skills and knowledge necessary for employment. Every 5 weeks, a group of 12 candidates will embark on a training course to fulfil the significant requirement of the airport for qualified personnel.

In addition to these specific Task Force training courses, and to continue fulfilling the needs of other companies, the 'Forem' is committed to:

- Providing an airport specialisation module to job seekers who already have skills or completed training in these jobs
- Adapting existing training courses at the 'Centre de compétence Forem Logistique Liège' by incorporating an airport specialisation module
- Offering a personalised approach for each company or group of companies in the form of integrated packages: advice, assistance in employment and training, PFI (professional training plan), customised training, or preselection

Marie-Kristine Vanbockestael, General Director of the 'Forem' feels that: "The entire airport is like an economic lung breathing its dynamism into the Liege region. More than 4,500 direct jobs have been created there and every day, new workers are joining the "Liege Airport community". The involvement of the 'Forem' is not a recent event. For more than 20 years now, the 'Forem' has played its part in welcoming foreign investors by promoting the local workforce and supporting the growth of companies at the airport by offering integrated services: recruitment, advice on employment and training grants as well as organising customised training courses which lead to qualifications".

For Luc Partoune, CEO of Liege Airport, the growth of the airport has to involve all players: “The mission for Liege Airport is to encourage economic activity and we are clearly changing our scope. Due to both the growth of our existing operators and the arrival of new companies and enterprises, there is an ever-increasing demand for specific roles. Jointly with the ‘Forem’, we are committed to assisting all companies working on the airport site. These 3 training courses are just the beginning of a long-term partnership.”

If the priority has been given to handlers, there are plans to meet with airlines, forwarding agents and others to identify needs and to develop relevant training schemes.

Let’s leave the last word to Pierre-Yves Jeholet, Vice-President of the Walloon Government and Minister for Economic Affairs, Industry, Research, Innovation, Digital Technology, Employment and Training: “I am delighted to see that Liege Airport is organising a customised training programme in partnership with the ‘Forem’, in response to the needs of the various cargo handling companies working here in terms of their workforce. Too many companies in Wallonia today are hampered in their development due to a lack of trained personnel, while at the same time many people are seeking work. It is in response to this paradox and with the aim of encouraging companies to become involved in training programmes that I have therefore taken a series of measures to combat these shortfalls.”

So, calling everyone – men and women! – in good physical shape and who would like to work within the airport environment. A basic knowledge of logistics and IT would be an advantage.

For more information call the ‘Forem’ green number: 0800 93 947.

Press contacts

Cabinet of Minister JEHOLET

Nicolas Reynders, Spokesperson and Communication Manager
081/23 41 50 – 0473/27 14 79

Forem

Thierry Ney, Spokesperson, Corporate Communication Manager
071/20 67 31 – 0491/72 46 16 - communication.corporate@forem.be

Liege Airport

Christian Delcourt, Communication Manager
04/234 85 80 – 0496/53 06 15

Valérie Hauglustaine

Press Attaché

04/234 85 75 – 0477/29 33 36