

MEDIA RELEASE

SWISSPORT HANDLES INAUGURATION FLIGHT OF SALAM AIR CARGO IN MUSCAT, OMAN

Swissport recently handled the inauguration flight of Salam Air Cargo at Muscat International Airport (MCT). It was the first all-cargo flight by an Omani airline.

Swissport handled the inauguration flight of Salam Air Cargo at Muscat International Airport (MCT) in Oman on 27 October 2022. The global leader in airport ground services and air cargo handling, with a GCC presence in the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has been providing ramp handling and passenger services to Salam Air in Muscat since 2018. Due to significant growth the airline is currently one of its main clients there.

"We are very excited to handle the first ever all-cargo flight of an Omani airline and support Salam Air in starting their cargo business. Swissport is ready to provide service excellence as required by the customer and provide any support needed to help drive Salam Air's growth," says Ivana Meyer, Managing Director of Swissport in Oman.

"Our successful partnership with Swissport in Oman led to the decision that they are the right partner to handle our cargo flights. We have full confidence that our extended collaboration which also includes cargo handling, will be a full success and support Salam Air's further growth," says Mohsin Albalushi, Director of Ground Operations Salam Air.

Salam Air expects to operate several cargo flights per week from Muscat to destinations such as Dhaka (DAC) and Chittagong's Shah Amanat International Airport (CGP) in Bangladesh, Mumbai (BOM) in India, Istanbul (IST) in Turkey, Khartoum (KRT) in Sudan and others. The Airbus A321, a passenger to freighter (P2F) converted aircraft will provide a payload of up to 27 tons. It is the first ever all-cargo aircraft used by an Omani airline.

Salam Air, the first low-cost airline based in Oman, has been offering passenger travel to many destinations across the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe since 2017. The airline has been growing significantly and continues to add new destinations for its passenger flights and Swissport is growing with the carrier. The recent launch of a cargo business is a strategic move to further strengthen Salam Air's position.

"Our globally recognized expertise in air cargo handling makes Swissport the partner of choice for Salam Air. This is an important moment to establish Oman as a cargo hub and our local team is proud to be a part of it," adds Dirk Goovaerts, Swissport's Global Cargo Chair and CEO of Continental Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Swissport has been present in Oman since 2017 and operates at Muscat International Airport and at Mukhaizna Airport, providing passenger services and ramp handling at both airports.

In 2021, Swissport International AG provided best-in-class airport ground services for some 97 million airline passengers (pre-COVID 2019: 265 million) and handled roughly 5.1 million tons of air freight (2019: 4.6 million) at over 120 air cargo centers worldwide. Several of its warehouses have been certified for pharmaceutical logistics by IATA's CEIV Pharma and by the British MHRA. The world's leader in airport ground services and air cargo handling, with currently around 48,000 employees, was active at 287 airports in 45 countries on six continents as of 14 July 2022.

Media contacts

Swissport International AG, Group Communications, Stefan Hartung, P.O. Box, 8058 Zurich Airport, Switzerland
media@swissport.com, +41 43 815 00 22