



جامعة جدة
University of Jeddah

رؤية جامعة جدة
برنامج مجال
تركيز الجامعة



LOGISTICS AROUND THE WORLD IN OCTOBER



A newsletter in the field
of logistics worldwide

Issue 06
October



AI CONTRACT BETWEEN USAF AND VIRTUALITICS TARGETS LOGISTICS AI CONTRACT BETWEEN USAF AND VIRTUALITICS TARGETS LOGISTICS

Virtualitics has secured a five-year, \$46 million contract with the United States Air Force (USAF) under the SBIR III program. This contract expands on a three-year collaboration to enhance mission readiness and operational effectiveness through AI-guided applications. Virtualitics will deploy its Integrated Readiness Optimization (IRO) software to improve decision-making for maintenance and sustainment units, optimizing scheduling and operational planning. IRO integrates AI with data on inventory, manpower, and equipment constraints to support decision-making with real-time data analytics and 3D visualizations, aligning with the USAF's Agile Combat Employment initiative to boost operational agility in a dynamic logistics environment.





COLIS.MA RAISES \$300,000 TO EXPAND ACROSS AFRICA AND EUROPE

Colis.ma, a Moroccan cross-border logistics startup, has raised \$300,000 in pre-seed funding from Witamax, a venture capital firm. The funds will help the company strengthen its presence in Morocco, expand into six European countries, and begin its push into West Africa. Founded in 2022 by Issam Darui, Colis.ma has delivered over 50,000 parcels to 55 destinations across Europe, growing fivefold in the past year. The company aims to connect SMEs in sectors like cosmetics and organic goods between Africa and Europe. The startup plans a fundraising round in early 2026 to further expand its market share.





GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN PRESSURES EASING, NY FED INDEX SHOWS

Global supply chain pressures are easing, according to the New York Federal Reserve's Global Supply Chain Pressure Index, which dropped to 0.13 in September, after rising to 0.2 in August. The easing trend signals a continued slowdown in inflation, helping reduce disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and port strikes. The resolution of a U.S. port strike removes a key risk to the economy and supply chain disruptions, easing inflation concerns. However, the tentative nature of the agreement between port operators and unions leaves the risk of delays and cost surges in early 2025 if unresolved.



MAERSK REPORTS STRONG DEMAND IN Q3 DRIVEN BY CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA EXPORTS

Maersk reported strong demand in Q3, driven primarily by exports from China and Southeast Asia, despite ongoing disruptions in global supply chains, particularly due to the situation in the Middle East. The shipping giant confirmed solid preliminary earnings and raised its full-year forecast, underpinned by strong demand and continued shipping disruptions in the Red Sea. Container trade grew by 4-6% year-over-year, with significant contributions from China and Southeast Asia. Exports from China, in particular, played a major role in this growth. Maersk emphasized that China's economy continues to be affected by manufacturing overcapacity and its reliance on export-driven growth, while domestic demand and consumer confidence remain weak. Maersk, a key indicator of global trade, noted that the global supply chain is still recovering, and disruptions in key shipping routes, including the Red Sea, continue to impact the industry. The company remains optimistic about the rest of the year, with strong demand supporting its earnings and outlook for the future.



APM TERMINALS CEO: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND WORKFORCE DIVERSITY KEY FOR BAHRAIN'S LOGISTICS GROWTH



Keith Svendsen, CEO of APM Terminals, emphasized the importance of digital transformation and workforce diversity in boosting Bahrain's logistics sector during Gateway Gulf 2024. He praised Bahrain's proactive approach to logistics technology and the country's diverse, talented workforce, which is essential for harnessing advanced technologies.

Svendsen highlighted that while global trade operates efficiently, it relies on fragmented systems and manual processes. He stressed that integrated digital platforms and AI can streamline logistics, improve efficiency, and enhance connectivity in global supply chains. APM Terminals has deployed technologies like AI and digital twins to optimize port operations.

Svendsen also pointed out that automation is opening new roles for women, as machinery roles have moved to office environments, promoting inclusivity in traditionally male-dominated areas. He expressed support for Bahrain's economic vision, stressing the importance of public-private partnerships and nurturing local talent for sustainable development.

He concluded by noting that AI optimization can reduce infrastructure needs and environmental impact, contributing to more sustainable growth in Bahrain's



UK AND JAPAN-BASED FIRMS HIVED AND YAMATO TEAM UP TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE AND TECH-DRIVEN LOGISTICS

HIVED, an electric delivery company, has entered into a new partnership with Japanese logistics giant Yamato to promote sustainable, tech-driven logistics in the UK and Japan. The agreement includes a £2 million investment from Yamato in HIVED. Founded in 2021 by Co-CEOs Murvah Iqbal and Mathias Krieger, HIVED serves customers such as Nespresso, Zara, John Lewis, and Uniqlo. Yamato controls 47% of Japan's logistics market, managing over 2.3 billion parcels annually. Iqbal highlighted the partnership as a "game-changing moment" for HIVED, with Yamato's expertise set to accelerate growth and enhance operations. Yasuhiro Saito, Head of Innovation and Investment at Yamato Holdings, emphasized the potential of HIVED's digital and electric vehicle-based delivery network to transform the customer experience. This collaboration aligns with the Hiroshima Accord between the UK and Japan, signed in 2023, which encourages deeper collaboration in strategic sectors like technology and sustainability.





DUBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ACHIEVES LEVEL 4 TRANSFORMATION

"Dubai International Airport has successfully achieved Level 4 Transformation in the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme, aligning with the Paris Agreement's long-term carbon emissions reduction goals. Operated by Dubai Airports, the airport is on track to become net zero by 2050. Key initiatives include transitioning dnata's airside fleet to biodiesel, a building and lighting retrofit in partnership with Etihad Energy Services, and food waste treatment with BEEAH Group. Additionally, the 'Follow the Greens' airfield guidance system has reduced fuel consumption and emissions. CEO Paul Griffiths emphasized the airport's commitment to sustainability and systemic change.





DUBAI CUSTOMS AND DP WORLD PARTNER TO TRANSFORM DIGITAL TRADE AND LOGISTICS

Dubai Customs and DP World have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance Dubai's role in international trade and logistics. The partnership focuses on developing digital solutions for trade and logistics, aiming to streamline customs systems and integrate cutting-edge technologies. This collaboration supports Dubai's competitiveness as a global trade hub, aligning with the city's economic agenda, D33. The partnership will improve stakeholder experiences in the trade sector, contributing to the growth of Dubai's non-oil foreign trade. The MoU was signed by senior executives from both organizations.



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