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Aviation

Etihad Airways posts its biggest annual profit

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Cargo News Asia 4/03/2014. Gulf-based carrier Etihad Airways posted its largest annual profit yet, with US\$62m in net earnings last year, up 48% from \$42m in 2012. The national carrier of the United Arab Emirates said revenue rose 27% to \$6.1bn. Etihad's revenues shot up 30% in cargo to almost \$930m last year. Chief executive officer of Etihad Airways James Hogan told The Associated Press in an interview this year showed "the best results so far". Etihad, which was set up in 2003 and is based in the United Arab Emirates' capital Abu Dhabi, is among the world's fastest growing airlines. It and its Gulf rivals, the Dubai-based Emirates and Qatar Airways, are increasingly challenging older airlines in the battle for long-haul international passengers as they compete for routes and critical stopover traffic between Asia and Europe and the Americas. The Gulf airliners' spending power and success have spooked other airlines around the world. More ...

<http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=15&article=32959>

PM opens door to Qantas split, **sale**

Cargo News Asia 4/03/2014. Prime Minister Tony Abbott has opened the door to a radical Qantas split into international and domestic arms, after federal cabinet last night backed the wholesale repeal of the airline's ownership limits. The Prime Minister outlined plans to scrap constraints on the airline's domestic **operations** while keeping Australian control of the international division, a crucial step towards dividing the **company**. The reform plan goes far beyond the changes rumoured late yesterday, with not only a repeal of the 49% cap on foreign investment in Qantas as a whole but also removal of the barrier to any foreign airline buying more than 35% of the **company**. In the face of Labour warnings that jobs were at risk, federal cabinet also decided to repeal provisions that required Qantas to keep its principal maintenance, catering, head office and other **operations** in Australia. The amendments could be ready for parliament to consider later this week but face a roadblock in the Senate as Bill Shorten warns of the loss of an Australian icon while minor parties threaten to veto the changes. More ...

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Etihad CEO gives 50-50 chance for Alitalia deal

Cargo News Asia 4/03/2014. Etihad Airways chief executive James Hogan says talks to pick an **equity stake** in struggling Italian carrier Alitalia could swing either way, as the Gulf airline entered into the final phase of due diligence for the investment. Etihad, which is leading a global **acquisition** drive, is looking to deepen its network in Europe after taking a **stake** in Air Berlin in 2011 and entering into a strategic code-share deal with Air France-KLM. But the Gulf airline is not hurrying into a deal with Alitalia, which is struggling with its more than US\$1.1bn debt and growing competition. Asked in an interview how confident he was at this stage of the deal going through, Hogan said: "It's 50-50. We had also entered into due diligence with other airlines in the past and walked away." Hogan says the deal could only go ahead if Alitalia met Etihad's criteria on costs, profitability, restructuring, the airline's network and strong management. He did not provide further details. More ...

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Biofuels

Low-cost methanol from carbon dioxide

Clean Technica 04/03/2014. A relatively low-cost means of converting carbon dioxide into methanol has been developed by researchers from Stanford University, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, and the Technical University of Denmark. Methanol is used for a number of different purposes, primarily though, as a fuel, in the production of many important adhesives and solvents, and in the production of plastics. It's been suggested by researchers in some fields that methanol could be used as a replacement for gasoline (at least partially) — despite its corrosivity — with only minimal adjustments to vehicle design. The new low-cost conversion method is all down to the discovery of a new nickel-gallium catalyst — one which converts hydrogen and carbon dioxide into methanol with fewer side-products than the conventional catalysts. "Methanol is processed in huge factories at very high pressures using hydrogen, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide from natural gas," stated study **lead** author Felix Studt, a staff scientist at SLAC. "We are looking for materials than can make methanol from clean sources under low-pressure conditions, while generating low amounts of carbon monoxide." More ...
<http://cleantechnica.com/2014/03/04/low-cost-methanol-carbon-dioxide-relatively-cheap-conversion-method-developed/>

Technology

Development of temperature controlled delivery services

EFT 4/03/2014. Russian Railways Logistics, successfully organized trial low temperature delivery of electronic goods from Chongqing, **China**, to (Duisburg, Germany) in cooperation with YuXinOu Logistics Co. The cargo was shipped in insulated and refrigerated containers with integrated diesel generators to maintain optimum temperature. According to Pavel Lagov, RZD Logistics Sales Director, the **company** analyzed diversity of transit cargo transported from **China** to Europe and developed the proposal aimed at minimizing seasonal traffic fluctuations when delivering high-tech goods in winter due to low temperature. Delivery time on transit route linking six countries, namely **China**, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland and Germany, amounted to 16 days. Specialized container equipment allowed to maintain and to control cargo temperature throughout the journey and to deliver high-tech electronics fully operational. More ...
<http://eft.com/3pllogistics/russian-railways-logistics-develop-temperature-controlled-delivery-services>

Shipping

Panama Canal expansion back on track

Cargo News Asia 3/04/2014. Panama and a consortium of European builders agreed to end a two-month-long dispute over US\$1.6bn in cost overruns for a project to widen the Panama Canal, raising hopes the work can be completed in about two years. The preliminary deal calls for independent arbitrators to rule on who should carry the extra costs. Both parties also agreed to provide for more than \$1bn in funds needed to complete the expansion project, which the shipping industry views as a boon to global trade. The work on the 100-year-old waterway, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, began in 2007 with the overall cost pegged at \$5.2bn. The purpose is to widen and deepen the canal, given many of today's vessels, including **oil** tankers and many container ships, are too big to fit through the canal's narrowest, 110-ft-wide stretches. Jorge Quijano, head of the Panama Canal Authority, a government agency which operates the 50-mile waterway, says the project won't be finished until early 2016. The previous target was late 2015. More ...
<http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=3&article=32950>

China firm to bid for Indonesia's Kalibaru terminals

Cargo News Asia 3/04/2014. The development of the Kalibaru Port in Tanjung Priok, North Jakarta, has received great deal of interest from foreign investors, with a major **Chinese** shipping **firm** already confirming its intention to join the tender for the expansion project at Indonesia's biggest seaport. **Hong Kong**-based **China** Merchants Holdings, an investment **company** specialising in port management and transportation, with a market capitalisation of US\$8.5bn, says it will tender again for the Kalibaru Port project, despite being unsuccessful in its first bid. **China** Merchants lost the tender for the concession rights for Terminal 1 to Mitsui & Co, but signaled it would make a comeback with a more lucrative proposal. This time, it plans to table offers for two terminals at once; namely terminals 2 and 3 at the port. "We think that it's worth taking to bid for two terminals, not just one," Jared H. Zerbe, the chief development officer with **China** Merchants, says. More ...
<http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=3&article=32951>

Port giant wakes up to threat of rivals

Cargo News Asia 3/04/2014. DP World Australia's new chief executive, Paul Scurrah, has pledged to get the container ports operator "back in the game" by reshaping its senior management team and improving customer service amid increasing competition from rivals Patrick and Hutchison Port Holdings. "We do not take for granted our market share position and while market share shouldn't be your only driver, it is an

important factor,” says Scurrah, a former Aurizon executive who took over as CEO in December. “Patrick is a formidable competitor, they’re very protective of their market share and they are increasingly getting better. Hutchison will absolutely get their act together. .??. so rather than hope that’s not going to happen we need to prepare for it,” says Scurrah. DP World Australia, majority-owned by Citigroup’s Citi Infrastructure Investors (Dubai ports operator DP World owns 25 percent), has traditionally formed a duopoly in the Australian market with Asciano’s Patrick ports. It currently has a market share of between 51 and 52%. More ... <http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=3&article=32952>

Business

Tesla to open \$5 **billion** ‘Gigafactory’ for batteries

RTCC 28/03/2014. Tesla has proposed building a new “Gigafactory” for batteries – a mammoth \$5bn undertaking which will be vital to the future of the luxury electric car **company**. The factory is a grand solution to a problem the **company**’s chief executive Elon Musk acknowledged last year at an event last July in California: a shortage of batteries. “Our issues right now are actually not so much demand generation as they are production related,” he says at Teslive, an exhibition for Tesla owners. “In order for production to grow, we have to have the whole supply chain move in cadence. One of the bigger challenges for us is going to be lithium-ion cell production. We need a lot of batteries.” The Gigafactory will allow Tesla to achieve economies of scale, said the **company**, driving down costs by 30%, helping them to achieve the goal of producing 500,000 vehicles a year by 2020 – almost 15 times its current output. The **company** has previously outlined plans to start rolling out mass market vehicles retailing at around \$35,000 from 2017. More ...

<http://www.rtcc.org/2014/02/27/tesla-to-open-5-billion-gigafactory-for-batteries/>

Clean Transport

California helping bring clean transport to more households

Clean Technica 04/03/2014. States and countries everywhere are experimenting with different ways to transform transportation systems and reduce reliance on **oil**. California especially is generally ahead of the curve compared to other states when it comes to accomplishing this task, so it’s important to watch how the country’s most populous state deals with different pieces of the transportation puzzle. And right now, California is facing a challenge that all states in the US must deal with when working to transform their transportation systems. To reduce transportation’s **oil** use, California has largely focused on two high-level strategies: 1) deploy lots of electric vehicles, and 2) increasingly focus on transit-oriented development by encouraging smart growth and expanding public transportation options. But the state’s focus on those two strategies risks unintentionally leaving behind an important segment of California’s population: the sizeable, largely low-income subset of Californians who cannot afford electric cars—even with generous state and federal subsidies—and who live outside the urban areas which tend to benefit from public transit. More ... <http://cleantechnica.com/2014/03/04/group-works-help-california-achieve-clean-cheap-transit/>

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