

**HD Digest**

**WC** 2,051 words

**PD** 20 March 2014

**SN** New Zealand Transport Intelligence Business Alert

**SC** TMRTNL

**LA** English

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**LP**

Aviation

Flight cancellations ahead of French strike

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Cargo News Asia 18/03/2014. European airlines warned passengers of coming cancellations and disruption, ahead of a strike by French air-traffic controllers over terms and conditions of employment. The French Civil Aviation Authority said it has asked airlines to reduce their flight schedules to and from airports in the Paris region by 30%, and by 20% for the airports serving Lyon, Marseille, Nice and Toulouse. Unions are demanding better salaries, improved employment security and the maintenance of public services, says Eric Héraud, spokesman for France's General Direction of Civil Aviation. British lower cost airline easyJet says it is cancelling 78 flights into Paris and across France, and Ireland-based rival carrier Ryanair said it would cancel 26 flights to or from France. British Airways, a unit of International Consolidated Airlines Group has cancelled a handful of flights on routes to Paris and Nice. Air France-KLM said it expects to be able to transport all its customers on long-haul flights. "However, some delays are to be expected, especially on our short and medium-haul network. There may be some last-minute cancellations," said a spokesman. Airlines also expect the strike to affect flights overflying France. More ... <http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=15&article=33056>

10,000 Qantas jobs could go offshore

Cargo News Asia 17/03/2014. As many as 10,000 Qantas jobs, including maintenance work, could be sent offshore despite fresh safety concerns. Embattled Qantas boss Alan Joyce, refused to rule out additional job losses to the 5,000 recently announced if proposed changes to the Qantas **Sale** Act allowed the iconic airline to locate more of its business offshore, reported the Advertiser. "I can't rule anything in or out," he told a parliamentary committee in Sydney, arguing Qantas, like its rival Virgin, should have no limit on how many jobs it can offshore. "We need for the future the same flexibility our competitor has. So if our competitor has the ability, which it does, to do all of its heavy maintenance, its call centres, everything, offshore then for Qantas to compete on a level playing field, to have the same options as that competition, it needs the same freedom," Joyce says. The assistant national secretary of the Australian Services Union, Linda White, warned that 10,000 jobs – one in three – could potentially be based offshore. While staff at check-in desks would likely remain Australian, call centre and freight staff would probably be moved. More ... <http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=15&article=33046&register=yes>

Call for cut in air cargo transit times

Cargo News Asia 13/03/2014. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) commenced its 8th World Cargo Symposium in Los Angeles with a call for the average end-to-end air cargo transit time to be cut by up to 48 hours by the end of the decade. "In this FIFA World Cup year, we need to move the goal-posts for customer expectations. Cutting average transit times by up to 48 hours by 2020 would make a huge difference to our value proposition, and enable the industry to arrest modal shift, and drive new efficiencies for the business," says Des Vertannes, IATA's global head of cargo in his opening keynote address. Currently, the average end-to-end time for consignments is around six to seven days - a schedule that has not improved since the 1960s. More ... <http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=15&article=33033>

Rail

Transnet South Africa orders 1064 locomotives

IRJ 17/03/2014. Transnet celebrated its biggest-ever locomotive order on March 17, when it signed contracts worth Rand 50bn with four international suppliers for a total of 1064 locomotives for its Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) subsidiary. CSR Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive, **China**, and Bombardier will supply a total of 599 electric locomotives, while GE and CNR will deliver 465 diesel locomotives. Bombardier's share of the deal comprises 240 Traxx Africa 100km/h dual-voltage (3kV dc and 25kV ac) electric locomotives. Bombardier says that more than 60% of the contract value will be localised. CSR will supply 359 dual-voltage six-axle electric locomotives, which will have a continuous output of 4.6MW and a maximum speed of 100km/h. GE will supply 233 ES40Ac Evolution Series diesel locomotives with 55% local content, while CNR will deliver 232 3.3MW six-axle diesels with ac traction (pictured below). CNR says the contract is its largest-ever export order. More ...

<http://www.railjournal.com/index.php/locomotives/transnet-south-africa-orders-1064-locomotives.html?channel=528>

#### Egypt revives high-speed rail plans

IRJ 18/03/2014. Egypt is to revive plans for a high-speed line linking the Mediterranean coast with the country's far south, according to transport minister Ibrahim El-Demeiry, who has described the project as "a top priority" for the interim Govt. El-Demeiry says bids will be invited soon for the construction of the line, which would run for 1200km from Alexandria via Giza, Asyut and Luxor to Aswan when all phases are completed. The project had been shelved since the Egyptian government commissioned a technical study in 2009 from Italferr, the international engineering consultancy arm of Italian State Railways (FS). The government says the first 200km phase from Alexandria to Giza could be completed in three years. The second and third stages, from Giza to Asyut and Luxor, are around 400km each. The main aims of the proposed network, which would have a commercial speed of up to 350 km/h, are to attract investment and boost tourism. More ...

<http://www.railjournal.com/index.php/africa/egypt-revives-high-speed-rail-plans.html?channel=542>

#### Russia to allow private investment in metros

IRJ 17/03/2014. The Russian Govt says it expects to approve legislation in the middle of this year which would allow the private sector to invest in metro projects, including the construction of new lines and the **acquisition** of new rolling stock. The Ministry of Transport has prepared and issued for public consultation a draft law that would allow non-budget funds to be invested in the construction of metro lines through concessions. The bill will regulate private sector investment in all aspects of light rail and metro projects. "The basis for the construction of the first private metros lines in Russia has been already created through the law on concessioning," says a representative of the ministry. "Therefore, it is clear that the government will not turn back and private money will soon be available for metros. Some regional governments have already initiated negotiations with private investors and after the bill is adopted construction could start within a couple of years." More ...

<http://www.railjournal.com/index.php/metros/russia-to-allow-private-investment-in-metro-projects.html?channel=542>

#### Ports

##### Vancouver port fails to get truckers to return to work

Cargo News Asia 17/03/2014. A two-and-a-half week container truck driver strike at Port Metro Vancouver was set to continue after a Govt and port authority plan to end the job action at Canada's largest port failed to make headway on the weekend. The 14-point plan, revealed by the Canadian and British Columbia governments and the port authority, sets out to address the concerns of the striking drivers on fair pay, reduced wait times at container facilities and the creation of an industry oversight committee. It also called for the striking drivers, who include unionised and independent truckers, to return to work immediately, ending a strike that has crippled **operations** and delayed the transport of hundreds of **millions** of dollars worth of goods. Gavin McGarrigle, British Columbia area director for Unifor, the union which represents about 400 container truck drivers, says it had responded to the 14-point plan with some questions but that it had been told it would get no answers until truckers returned to work. More ...

<http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=3&article=33049>

##### Port strike hurting Canadian economy

Cargo News Asia 18/03/2014. The government of the Canadian province of British Columbia won't rule out asking the federal government for back-to-work legislation to end a port strike crippling the country's largest port. Hundreds of members of Unifor-Vancouver Container Truckers' Association parked their trucks on March 10, joining the more than 1,000 members of the non-union United Truckers Association on strike at Port Metro Vancouver since last month. Better pay and standardised rates that would prevent drivers from undercutting each other are among the issues. A tentative deal was reached two weeks ago but members voted against the agreement last weekend. BC Minister of Transportation Stone said the

dispute was halting the movement of US\$126m in cargo per day. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has called it a threat to the economy.

## Shipping

### Global shippers must tighten belts – Cosco boss

Cargo News Asia 14/03/2014. Global shipping firms must prepare for another tough year as a glut in global capacity will continue to weigh on profits and margins, the chairman of **China**'s biggest shipping group, **China** Ocean Shipping Group Co (Cosco) says. "The industry turnaround will still take a long time," Ma Zehua says. "There are a lot of challenges ahead." Cosco Group is one of **China**'s top 100 central Govt-controlled conglomerates. The **firm** operates more than 700 merchant vessels with shipping lines covering 1,600 ports. The group controls five listed companies, including **China** Cosco Holdings and Cosco Corp (Singapore). Cosco Corp (Singapore) reported a 71% decline in net profit last year, while **China** Cosco Holdings, the group's flagship, says it should return to profitability after posting losses in 2011 and 2012 following the **sale** of its logistics business, stakes in a container manufacturer and office properties. More ... <http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/article.aspx?id=3&article=33038>

## Pollution

### Smoggy Paris tries odd-even license plate strategy

ENS Newswire 17/03/2014. In response to the thick blanket of smog which settled over Paris last week, Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault limited city traffic on Monday to drivers with odd numbered license plates. On Tuesday, only drivers with even numbered plates can use their vehicles. Prime Minister Ayrault says he is aware of the difficulties which this may cause in the daily life of Parisians, but this extra step is necessary. The Prime Minister said he "trusts the spirit of responsibility and citizenship of each and everyone." The restriction affects trucks over 3.5 tonnes, and all light vehicles, such as cars, scooters and motorcycles. Electric and hybrid cars are not affected, nor are vehicles powered by natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas. Also exempted are cars carrying three or more people, police, fire, and emergency vehicles, as well as postal, money transport and garbage collection vehicles and those transporting perishable foods to markets, grocery stores, cafes and restaurants. More ... <http://ens-newswire.com/2014/03/17/smoggy-paris-tries-odd-even-license-plate-strategy/>

## Trucking

### Obama orders higher fuel efficiency standards for big trucks

ENS Newswire 18/03/2014. President Barack Obama set the wheels in motion for the next phase of vehicle fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas standards for medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks as he pledged to do in his State of the Union address in January. Speaking at a Safeway distribution center in Upper Marlboro, the President directed the US Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to develop and issue the next phase of standards by March 2016. The agencies are expected to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by March 2015. This second round of fuel efficiency standards will build on the first-ever standards for medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, covering model years 2014 through 2018. Proposed by the Obama Administration and finalized in September 2011, these standards took effect on January 1. They are estimated to save vehicle owners and operators a total of \$50bn in fuel costs and save a projected 530m barrels of **oil**. More ... <http://ens-newswire.com/2014/02/18/obama-orders-higher-fuel-efficiency-standards-for-big-trucks/>

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**AN** Document TMRTNL0020140319ea3k0000h